

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 29, 2012

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## 'Angel' plea

Flood-victim Mariann in search for her rescuer

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## Smart move

Carpenter tidies up and scoops £10,000 prize

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## Albion joy

Ace Lukaku puts his focus with the Baggies

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## Plans for future of town get approval

PLANS to make the most out of Halesowen have been approved by Dudley Borough Council.

The Halesowen Area Action Plan was drawn up earlier this year to guide new investment and pinpoint places for new shops, homes and leisure developments.

Councillor Ken Turner said of the plan: "It's an opportunity to herald Dudley borough to the world."

"People coming from the south of the borough first meet Halesowen so we need to be ambitious and determined in what we're offering. We can't pussyfoot around."

The plan found there were too many car parking spaces and suggested some could be removed to make way for shops and businesses.

Councillor Turner added: "You could attract a departmental store maybe or a quality supermarket or even a distribution centre with the roads infrastructure that is already there."

One site suggested was Trinity Point office block and the High Street car park. Council bosses also want more people to live in the town centre.

The plan was accepted by the full council and it is hoped it will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate early next year.

## Theft forces gym to shut

A GYM and leisure centre in Brierley Hill was closed after thieves stripped copper piping from the water system.

Members turning up yesterday expecting to enjoy the gym, indoor swimming pool, tennis and other facilities at the David Lloyd complex, Pennsett Road complex were sent home again.

West Midlands Police are investigating the theft from inside plant room, are reviewing the club's CCTV footage. The club, which was left with no water, was due to reopen today (Thur).

# MARKET GO-AHEAD BUT NO GOODWILL

by Lousie Jew

**COUNCILLORS have struck a compromise over controversial plans for a Christmas market in Halesowen, which sparked protest from other traders in the town.**

But Halesowen Chamber of Trade and the town's Cornbow Centre were still not happy after Dudley licensing sub committee decided to let the festive market go ahead for only two days, rather than the whole of the week leading up to Christmas. This week's sub committee had heard complaints that the stalls would deprive shops of income.

## Engineering firm's joy at £10m orders

HALESOWEN engineering firm Thompson is flying the flag for UK manufacturing after winning £10 million of new orders around the world.

The company is to build nine of its friction welding machines for customers in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Thompson, which can trace its roots back to the John Thompson boiler making business established in Bilston in the 1830s, makes machines that use the intense heat from friction to weld materials together.

The firm, in Hereford Rise, has just clinched its biggest-ever single order to supply six machines to factories in Mexico and the USA, where they will be used by a major manufacturing firm to make piston rods.

In addition Thompson has won contracts from a Chinese truck axle manufacturer and two Swedish companies will use the engineer's machines to make drill pipes and electrical connectors.

To cope with its bulging order book, Thompson has taken on a temporary factory in Tamworth and moved six staff there.

Although the surge in business will not create any additional jobs, it secures the position of Thompson's 80 strong workforce. Sales director Nick Edge said: "It's tremendous news in a very challenging marketplace and a reflection of the hard work and dedication of all the workforce."

Thompson celebrates the 50th anniversary of its first-ever friction weld next year.

Members gave the go-ahead for the farmers and craft market to open only on the Friday and Saturday, December 21 and 22 - but not on December 18, 19 and 20.

But the chairman of the chamber said shopkeepers would still not be content.

Bescot Promotions, which already runs Halesowen markets on the second, fourth and fifth Saturday of every month, had hoped to hold the special session for five days from December 18 to 22.

But there were fears it would take trade away from shops during the best trading week of the year.

Chamber chairman Steve Fitzpatrick told the sub-committee: "We feel that to run a market down there for the whole of Christmas week would take trade away from shops."

"The shops depend on Christmas trade to take them through January and February."

"The shops don't need to have the market - they need to survive in Halesowen town centre."

### Power

Eve O'Connor, manager of the Cornbow shopping centre, said WHSmith's frontage was "completely obliterated" by the market, and trade was down on the days the stalls were there.

She said shoppers had only a certain amount of money and the market was "splitting" their spending power, leaving less to spend in stores.

Councillor Ken Turner said: "Traders, predominantly in Peckingham Street, are having extreme difficulty and two of them have intimated there's a possibility of having to review their trading in the town."

Bescot Promotions managing director Steve Evans told the sub-committee that Warwick Butchers, Thorntons, a cafe and a hairdressers' had told him that market days boosted their own trade.

"If a Christmas market came to Halesowen everyone would benefit - it will bring people into the town," he said.

## Jenny's retirement challenge



Jenny Sargent plans to start her retirement by riding 600 miles to raise money on the Acorns India Cycle

INSTEAD of using her planned retirement to take it easy, one grandmother is planning to cycle across India for charity.

Jenny Sargent, aged 60, is retiring from her teaching position at Halesowen College next summer and is planning the 10-day cycling trek to raise funds for Acorns Children's Hospice.

She said: "I was looking for a way to celebrate my retirement and, when I heard that Acorns was doing a cycle across India, I thought: 'why not?'"

Mrs Sargent has already raised £800 through car boot sales, donations and coffee mornings and she said she had many more fundraising ideas up her sleeve.

### Biggest

For now, however, she has less than a year to train - with her cycling trek due to start at Jaipur on November 13 next year.

She said: "I think the biggest challenge will be cycling in the weather conditions and on the rough terrain."

"I got back on my bike again this summer and started training."

"I've always enjoyed cycling so I'm really looking forward to the challenge."

Mrs Sargent will cover up to 98km (60 miles) each day before crossing the finish line at Agra, home of the famous Taj Mahal.

The hospice has centres in Birmingham, Walsall and Worcester.

It hopes to get more people involved in the challenge. For information go to [www.acorns.org.uk/indiacycle](http://www.acorns.org.uk/indiacycle)

## Wedding blamed for road offences

A MAN caught speeding in Halesowen with no insurance has told magistrates it was because of his approaching wedding.

Steven Hunt, aged 27, was due to get married on August 10 but, in the week before that, he was caught twice by police for driving offences on the same road.

And it cost him more than £800.

On August 4, he was caught driving at 43mph on the 30mph-limit Huntingtree Road and with no insurance.

Three days later he was caught driving with no licence and no insurance.

He told Dudley Magistrates' Court: "I was getting married on August 10 and everything slipped my mind."

"I was due to renew my insurance earlier that month but I was under stress with the wedding and forgot."

Pleading guilty to all charges, he told the court he worked as a plasterer and, along with his teacher wife, supported two children.

Magistrates fined him £400 for the first offences and a further £320 for the second day's.

He was also ordered to pay £100 towards prosecution costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Hunt, of Wallows Road, Brierley Hill, faces a total bill of £835.

## 'Cop shops' fight crime

POLICE officers will be hitting the high street in a bid to tackle crime and advise shoppers in Halesowen and Stourbridge.

They will be setting up "cop shops" in two vacant units for a festive crime prevention initiative that will run throughout December. They will be in Queensway, near Halesowen bus station, and Stourbridge's Ryemarket Shopping Centre.

Officers are warning people to be vigilant for pickpockets operating in the shopping crowds.

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## Cuts branded a budget of despair

COST-CUTTING plans that would see parking charges rise, youth services slashed and some home care for the elderly withdrawn has been branded a "budget of despair" by opposition councillors in Dudley.

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council's full council on Monday heard the opening shots fired in a budget debate that will last until the financial blueprint comes up for approval on March 4.

Parks and streets will not be maintained as often and garden

waste would go uncollected for five months of the year under plans to save £22 million over three years.

Councillor David Blood, Conservative councillor for Kingswinford South, said: "We believe this budget is one of despair. It's cowardly and it would appear that seven months after being elected, the controlling Labour group have no ideas to put forward."

His fellow councillor and minority leader Les Jones said: "We would have made the decision to protect

frontline services and I don't think they've made moves to do so."

"The current administration is lazy, naïve, dogmatic and, quite frankly, borderline incompetent."

The council has already slashed £30 million since 2010, seeing 487 voluntary redundancies and 74 compulsory redundancies.

Council leader David Sparks said: "The costs we are now facing are because the Government has failed to meet its targets." He had previously described the authority as

being in a "financial straitjacket", with no choice but to make massive cuts to claw back the £22 million.

The council was told, however, that because they did not need to fund schools that had become academies, they could see an extra £1.1 million in savings. Also, various changes proposed to council tax regarding empty houses could save another £1.5 million annually.

The proposals include introducing wheelie bins and shortening the collection period for garden waste.

## Burglar smeared his blood at house

A MAN who smeared his own blood on the wall of a house he burgled was caught after police traced him through DNA evidence.

Wayne Dandy, aged 32, had broken into a flat on Bredon Court, Halesowen, and stolen a water tank worth £300 between February 20 and 23.

Mr Jonas Bloom, defending, told Dudley Magistrates' Court: "The walls were smeared with blood and as a result of forensic examination it was tied to Mr Dandy."

Dandy, of Pickersley Close, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to the burglary.

The court was also told he had tested positive for cocaine and opiates when he was taken to the police station after his arrest.

Dandy had progressed in the crime stakes from committing a robbery in 2001 to his first burglary in 2005 and a conviction for carrying an offensive weapon in 2008.

Two years ago he committed his first house burglary.

Magistrates sent him to Wolverhampton Crown Court for sentence on December 18.

## Care home to be closed

A CHILDREN'S care home in Halesowen has been earmarked for closure by council bosses. South Acre, a six-bedroom home in Howley Grange, will shut under plans approved by Birmingham City Council.

The authority is looking to close five of its 17 children's homes as part of an on-going move towards placing looked-after children in family settings.

South Acre provides accommodation for young people with difficult and challenging behaviours. They will spend an average of two years at the home.

Staff and unions were consulted on the plans during the summer.

## Festivities fair

A TRADITIONAL Christmas fair is due to be held at Overend Methodist Mission Banners Street, Cradley, this Saturday. There will be crafts, nearly-new items, white elephant, cakes and groceries stalls as well as hot and cold refreshments. Entry is free and the event will be open between 11am and 2pm.

## A CEMETERY in Halesowen that has been blighted by vandalism has been cleaned up by volunteer students.

St Peter's Church, in on High Street, has had stained glass windows smashed and metal railings stolen from its graveyard in recent weeks.

The eight learners from City of Wolverhampton College, who are on a 12-week programme with employment charity the Prince's Trust, spent two weeks cutting down brambles that had grown over the headstones.

They raised the £450 needed for the project by bag packing at Asda and Iceland in Halesowen and taking part in a sponsored fancy dress walk.

Team leader Jo Lewis said: "The team have worked extremely hard on this project and it is great to see all their hard work, with a fantastic finishing result."

## Positive

"After being blighted with vandalism I can only hope that St Peter's Church is now given the respect it deserves and that crime is brought down within the area."

"Young people are not often reflected in the best light and I hope from this we receive a more positive attitude about young people today."

The Rev Katryn Leclézio, the vicar of St Peter's, said: "We are extremely grateful and what the charity is doing is fantastic generally."

"This projects affects the whole community and we have had a lot of positive feedback."

The Prince's Trust Programme is a personal development course for 16-25 year olds, both unemployed and employed, that aims to help young people develop their confidence, motivation and skills.

The project forms the community programme element of the course, where the students are asked to give their time and energy to an activity that would have a long-lasting impact on the local community.



Prince's Trust students who clean up St Peter's cemetery, Halesowen, with the Rev Katryn Leclézio

## Firm on track with rail-link proposal

DUDLEY could have a new railway link under £5 million plans to open a passenger line on a freight track.

A new Metro-style station would be built close to Dudley Southern Bypass in the Blowers Green area, under the proposals.

Officials are looking to open a light rail service from Stourbridge to Dudley incorporating The Waterfront in Brierley Hill near the Merry Hill Shopping Centre. Engineering company Parry People Movers is

working on the scheme. The Cradley Heath-based firm already runs a service on the Stourbridge branch line between the Town and Junction stations.

Bosses have already outlined plans to open the freight line between Stourbridge Junction and the former Round Oak station in Brierley Hill.

Three metro-style stations would be built serving passenger railcars on a four-mile section to link with

mainline services at Stourbridge to Birmingham, Worcester and London. But bosses believe a Dudley extension would be more cost effective.

Chief executive John Parry said he hoped the plans will be considered by the West Midlands Transport Authority, Centro, along with Network Rail and Dudley Council.

"It adds more weight to the scheme to bring it into Dudley," he said.

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## A stricter check on vouchers

AN annual giveaway of Christmas shopping vouchers is being launched for pensioners in Kinver – but organisers have warned they will clamp down on gatecrashers living outside the area.

People living outside the South Staffordshire parish, who last year made claims to cash in on the festive gift, are warned they will not get the vouchers this time around.

The yearly distribution of the vouchers – each worth £6 to spend in Kinver shops – is made possible by grants from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity.

Mr Wrigley, who ran Kinver Sawmills and who founded Kinver Old People's Welfare, died in the mid 1990s, aged 83.

Around 900 vouchers a year are handed out at Christmas by the Old People's Welfare, thanks to £5,000 from the charity, boosted by an average of £250 to £325 a year from Kinver Darts Team, £300 from the Monday Bingo Club at the village Constitutional Club and £60 from Kinver Country Fair.

The vouchers will be distributed at Kinver Senior Citizens Rooms on December 7 from 9.30am to 2pm.

## Arson attack hits market

MARKET stalls in Dudley have been damaged in an arson attack.

Eight of the 74 pitches at Dudley Market Place have been left out of action due to smoke and fire damage.

Dudley Council said the market was still open as normal and repairs were being carried out.

Chairman of Dudley Market Traders Association Len Lenihan said he was saddened by the attack, which happened at around 10pm on November 20.

Firefighters from Dudley tackled the fire and stopped the flames spreading.

## New store open

DRAGONS' Den star Theo Paphitis unveiled his new lingerie store in Dudley – and revealed he is keen to expand his business across the region.

The 53-year-old entrepreneur cut the ribbon on the Boux Avenue store in Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre.

It is the chain's second in the West Midlands.

# Church is set to get £80,000 improvements

A CHURCH in Lye is being given a five-figure facelift to improve facilities for worshippers and community groups.

The United Church in Upper High Street has been awarded cash from The Istock Cory Environmental Trust towards some of the renovation work.

The project which in total is costing just under £80,000 includes upgrading the heating system and repairing and insulating the roof.

A lift has also been installed. Disabled facilities including a unisex toilet are also being fitted at the church,

which serves Methodist and United Reformed denominations, in the New Year.

About 50 people attend the weekly services but the church building can be used by up to 200.

### Classes

It is used for two luncheon clubs, coffee mornings and art classes.

The building is also used by a dance school, karate club and the Boys and Girls Brigades. A grant of £15,000 has been awarded by the Istock Cory Environ-

mental Trust and has been used to repair and insulate the roof.

Church treasurer Iliffe Attwood said members were very grateful to receive the grant.

"The roof was leaking and had no insulation so it was a real mess. But now it has been fixed.

"We've had a lift put in and after Christmas the builders are coming back to put in a unisex, disabled toilet.

"We are really pleased this work is being carried out.

"The church is not just used on

Sundays, it is used every day of the week," she added.

The church, which has raised cash itself for the rest of the work, has been based in its current premises, which was once the Liberal Club, since 1979.

The Istock Cory Environmental Trust was established in February 2001 in conjunction with Istock Brick Limited and Cory Environmental Ltd and funded through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

To date it has supported 250 projects and funding totalling £4.3million has been approved.

# £1 pay-back from £500,000 fraudster leaves pastor sad

## Young choirs set for battle



Wallbrook Primary school, Coseley, sing at the Christmas choir competition at the Merry Hill shopping centre

THE first notes have sounded for the annual Christmas school choir competition at Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre.

The popular sing-off among schools from across the West Midlands has been launched.

A total of 40 schools are battling it out, with groups being judged in four different categories – best choir, best newcomer, judges' choice and best performance. Among those singing last

week were 45 youngsters aged nine to 11 from Cradley Church of England Primary School, Coseley. They sang Because it's Christmas. We have followed the Star, Starry Night and This is the Time and the Season.

Teacher and choir co-ordinator Kathryn Rouse said: "I was really proud of them."

The judges are a panel made up of staff at Dudley's Westfield Merry Hill centre, business representatives and community leaders.

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The judges are a panel made up of staff at Dudley's Westfield Merry Hill centre, business representatives and community leaders.

THE leader of a congregation whose funds were stripped of hundreds of thousands of pounds said he was saddened the fraudster was ordered to pay back just £1.

Stephen Methuen was treasurer for both Amblecote Christian Centre, of which he was a member, and the Christian International Relief Mission, based in Stourbridge.

But, over a six-year period, he embezzled the evangelical church out of an estimated £400,000 and the charity out of more than £100,000.

At a court hearing on November 22 he was ordered to pay back just £1 because he had "no available assets".

Methuen, of Smalman Close, Wordsley, had earlier admitted 16 counts of fraud.

Pastor Adrian Lowe, from Amblecote Christian Centre, said he was saddened by the decision although it admits it had been expected.

"Very little, if any, of the funds will be recovered" he said.

"Steve is only weeks into his prison sentence with the likely earliest release date not until April 2015, when he will be almost 60 years of age.

"It is our hope that his time in custody leads him



Stephen Methuen

to demonstrating true remorse for his crimes."

"Even though we are unlikely to see the recovery of the stolen funds, we are greatly encouraged by the continuous generous giving of our members, who have remained loyal during this very difficult period," he added.

Pastor Lowe said they would be continuing to support Methuen's now estranged wife, who he said knew nothing of the crimes.

## Extra Christmas services

EXTRA bus services are being laid on to transport visitors to Worcester's Victorian Christmas Fair.

On December 1 and 2, from 8.30am to 8pm, the 910 service will operate from County Hall as a park and ride facility. The W1 service from the Perdiswell Park and Ride site will be running additional later services on November 29 and 30 until 9.30pm. Perdiswell will also operate additional services on December 1 until 8pm and on December 2 until 5pm. Additional late night services will run on the 30, 31 and 35 services on November 29 and 30.

## NEWS in brief

### More traders are needed for fair

A HALESOWEN woman is appealing for more traders to join in her Christmas vintage fair.

Organiser Carolyn Williams is disappointed after only a handful of traders specialising in vintage goods have taken stalls.

The Vintage and Craft Fair will take place at Halesowen's Cornbow Hall on December 22 and it is hoped around £500 of the takings will be split between two charities.

Anybody interested in the event should contact Carolyn on 07830 369201.

### Retiring teacher gets big send-off

RETIRING deputy head-teacher Bob Dunphy was given a rousing send off for his retirement.

The teacher at The Coseley School received a send-off from his students that saw a prolonged round of applause.

The 61-year-old, who lives in Wolverhampton with his wife and three daughters, said: "I really didn't expect that from them but they gave me a brilliant send-off." Mr Dunphy said he had never regretted being a teacher.

### Interpreters can't be found for case

A ROMANIAN woman had her case postponed at Dudley Magistrates because there were no interpreters available.

Mariana Wintincher, 42, of Sherwood Street, Whitmore Reans, is accused of stealing a dress from Peacocks at the Merry Hill Centre on November 2. She is also accused of assault at Brierley Hill on the same day. She has been bailed.

### Zookeepers in exam successes

TWO Dudley Zookeepers have passed their first year exams in looking after animals.

Neil Flockhart received 10 distinctions and Cerys Grove gained six, one merit and three passes in the Diploma in the Management of Zoo and Aquarium Animals national tests. Both have started work on their second year of studies.

### It's Burns Night

STOURBRIDGE Cricket Club is hosting a Burns Night celebration on January 25. Tickets are £13, including a haggis supper.

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## NEWS

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**THURSDAYS In The Park**, by 62-year-old Hilary Boyd, is a tale of sex for the over-60s and has become a sudden sensation. It had to happen. Our big, cosseted, super-confident Babyboomer generation has yelled about its sex life from the rooftops for the past 50 years, so why stop now? The big difference is that back in the 1960s you lit the candles, switched the music on low, slipped into the kitchen for that bottle of champagne and va-va-voom. Half a century on, you light the candles, switch the music on low, slip into the kitchen, can't remember what you're doing there and decide to dismantle the thermostat on the boiler. Exciting, but how do you turn it into a novel?

□□□□□□□□

ON the four days preceding last Wednesday, the forecast was wall-to-wall sunshine across England. Come Wednesday, the heavens opened. It was the sort of downpour you could probably have predicted with a pine cone and a bit of seaweed yet the professionals, with billions of pounds' of satellites and computers, missed it.

□□□□□□□□

**MEANWHILE**, global warming appears to have cooled down. Met Office figures show temperatures dropped during 2011 and 2012 from the high levels of 2010. It goes without saying that the experts dismiss this as "statistically meaningless." It only becomes meaningful when the temperature goes up.

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**UNDETERRED** by the weather, Mrs Rhodes and I wrapped up warm and strolled into town, pausing for light entertainment at our local ford which was full and foaming and too much for some drivers to resist. It is one of the eternal mysteries of life that a man (rarely a woman) will risk £20,000 of car in a ford rather than make a short detour. Sure enough, a BMW was up to its axles, the owner very red-faced.

# Councils get £1.8m for weekly bin collections

**DUDLEY** Council has been awarded £1.8million of government funding to continue weekly bin collections and increase recycling services across the borough. The local authority is one of 85 around the country which have had their application for the cash approved by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

## Checks up at libraries

PEOPLE will be able to get free drop-in health checks at libraries across the Dudley borough.

The appointments are available to people aged between 40 and 74 who haven't had a recent health check and are registered with a Dudley borough GP and haven't been diagnosed with or suffer from diabetes, hypertension, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke or kidney disorder.

The checks will be available at Sedgley Library on December 4; Halesowen Library December 6 and at Dudley Library on December 13. The sessions will run from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

## £850 is raised

THE collection at Dudley Festival of Remembrance service raised £850 with money still coming in. Hundreds of people packed into Dudley Town Hall.

Bosses plan to use the money on extra vehicles, boxes, bags and staff in order to roll out the plastic bottle and cardboard recycling trial to all households in the borough.

The trial, which currently runs at 11,000 households, has an average take-up rate of 83 per cent and has resulted in a 68 per cent rise in the amount of material collected.

The funding will also enable the council to continue its weekly household waste collection service for at least another five years, to provide recycling collections for schools and to look at ways of encouraging residents to recycle more.

## Receive

The expanded recycling collection schemes will be rolled out from next spring and the process is expected to take up to 18 months.

Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "I'm delighted that we have been successful in this bid."

"It will enable us to roll out our popular cardboard and plastic bottle recycling trial and retain the weekly waste collection service."

Residents can still recycle cardboard at the household recycling and waste centre in Stourbridge until they receive their new collection and plastic bottles can be taken to a number of sites across the borough.

For more information visit [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) or call 0300 555 2345.

## Cat refuge in funding plea



**Joy Tomkins, as Big Tom, with Jeanette Hill and some of the cats**  
TWO women are calling on the generosity of people to help their beloved cat refuge through the Christmas season. Joy Tomkins and Jeanette Hill run Halesowen Cats' Protection, which held an event at the United Church, Hagley Road, Halesowen, at the weekend that featured the 47 cats and kittens in its care. Mrs Tomkins said: "Our vet bill was nearly £3,000 last month and we've got dozens of cats and kittens here. "It's becoming more common for people to abandon their cats." For more details or to make donations call 07954 1 62657 or 01384 859501.

## New scrap metal law vital – MP

A DUDLEY MP said a new metal theft bill would "tackle a dated and ineffective law" after it was voted through the House of Commons.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Bill passed its report stage and third reading in the Commons and will now pass through the House of Lords before becoming law. "Under the bill all scrap dealers would have to hold and display a licence and a national register of scrap dealers would be set up."

Chris Kelly, MP for Dudley South, said: "The continued death of individuals and the risks to innocent people show how vital it was that the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill was passed without hindrance."

"This is about enshrining effective and fair principles to tackle a dated and ineffective law."

"Despite the best efforts of the police and the funding behind the metal theft taskforce, metal theft continues with despicable and deadly consequences."

"The impact is felt across society with transport, utility and heritage being attacked."

## Christmas crafts

A CRAFT fair at Art Space, King Street, Dudley, on December 6 will showcase handmade items including glass jewellery, textiles, jams, chutneys and aprons.

Forge Forward and Art-space Dudley are organising the Handmade Xmas event, from 5.30 to 9pm.

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## Market's arson-hit stalls are repaired

STALLS on Dudley Market, which were damaged during an arson attack, have now been repaired.

Eight of the 74 pitches were left out of action after yobs struck late at night last Tuesday.

It is believed burning cardboard was used to set the stalls alight, causing smoke and fire damage.

Firefighters from Dudley prevented the flames from spreading to other stalls.

Some electrical work was due carried out yesterday to ensure the market could continue to open as normal.

Dudley Council spokesman Phil Parker said the cost of the repair work was not yet known but the council would be able to claim it back through insurance.

### Concern

Chairman of Dudley Market Traders' Association Len Lenthian said: "The stalls are all back up and running."

"Some people have had to move around a bit but they've been offered concessionary rates to compensate. "We are pleased with how it has been handled by the council and it's only caused a bit of disruption."

"Some of the traders are concerned about it happening again and we are discussing whether it would be possible to have CCTV as a deterrent in the centre aisle of the market."

## New meeting call on retirement village scheme

RESIDENTS will hold a second public meeting to discuss under-fire plans for an £18 million retirement village on the site of a former school in Cradley.

Midland Heart has lodged proposals for the scheme, which would offer 130 apartments, but is facing opposition from people living nearby. Residents have already spoken out about the project at a meeting with the developer last week.

Many said they felt the former Cradley High School site was the wrong location and feared it would cause major disruption. One

worry raised was that security lighting which would be installed could impact on neighbours. Harry Bloomer, of Walmley Close, said: "This is not the same as other developments in the area, such as the one built in Russells Hall. That is near to facilities such as shops and churches."

"This would not be. These residents would be cut off. It would be like a stalag."

"I understand security lighting will also be installed. This building will be sitting on top of a hill and will be seen for miles around. It will be an eyesore." Now, a second

public meeting has been called by the Friends of Homer Hill Park to allow people to voice their concerns.

Val Bloomer, secretary for the friends group, said: "We want as many people to come along as possible so we can make sure their concerns are raised with Midland Heart and the council."

Project manager Nick Bradley, from Midland Heart, said the firm would work with residents to address issues raised. He said the development would be within the footprint of the old school and would offer a

range of facilities for residents, including a gym, social bar, hair salon and computer suite. It would employ more than 40 staff.

The apartments would be available to buy or rent, or be taken on as shared ownership.

Every unit will have its own front entrance door, while bigger apartments will incorporate a second bedroom, with enough space for wheelchair access. There would be garden and woodland areas.

Plans for a separate development of 11 private-sale houses have been submitted as part of the application to Dudley Council.

## Cable views how students can evolve in the workplace

HUNDREDS of community figures gathered to see Business Secretary Vince Cable officially open a long-awaited addition to Dudley College - where he was given first-class treatment testing out a plane simulator.

Mr Cable was there to open its Learning Quarter, called Dudley Evolve. His visit included testing out a plane simulator used to train future cabin crew. He toured the new three-storey building on Thursday with students and staff.

Mr Cable spent almost an hour being guided around the building, which includes coffee shops, a theatre and open-plan art and design workshops. He later said he was impressed with the £18 million Dudley Learning Quarter, which is part of the new building. "It would have been difficult for the young people to feign the enjoyment and enthusiasm there is around this place," he said.

Mr Cable spoke of how he had "grown up with the further education sector", recalling how his own father had left school at 15 before working in a factory and studying hard to become a teacher.

College principal Lowell Williams was also thrilled with the new building, saying: "I'm kind of amazed we're here today. We were standing waiting for a pot of money that never came." In May it was announced Barclays Corporate



Vince Cable at a demonstration by student Tanisha Roberts, 17, in the mock plane at Dudley College

and Investment Banking division had stepped up to help fund the Learning Quarter, along with the new Dudley Sixth A-level centre.

Mr Cable also announced funding packages for the college and Halesowen and Stourbridge colleges. He said: "These projects will transform the learning environment for thousands of students in the West Midlands." At Dudley, a rant

of £2.2m will cover a third of the £6.6m cost of a new engineering building - known as the Dudley Advance scheme - in Priory Road.

Stourbridge has won a £2.3m grant towards a £3.4m Health and Social Care Building. Halesowen has attracted a £1.9m towards its £5.9m modernised teaching and learning accommodation, including provision for animal care.

## NEWS in brief

### Business given welcome to web

DUDLEY borough businesses are being encouraged to attend a free Google workshop event this Friday. The Ruskin Glass Centre, Wollaston Road, Amblecote, Stourbridge, hosts the free event from 3pm to 4.30pm.

It will offer tips on improving web presence, boost traffic and increase business. Dudley Council wants businesses to see how they can boost their online presence. Sessions can be booked at <http://www.gbbo.co.uk/googlejuicebar>

### Decision due on plans for church

CHURCH leaders were due this week to consider a bid by campaigners hoping to take over a Dudley place of worship.

The St. John's Church Preservation Group has submitted a business plan for the Grade II listed building in Kates Hill. It has been closed for 10 years due to safety fears.

Its plan to carry out repairs and reopen the church so it can be used by the community were to be discussed by the Diocese of Worcester. If approved, it will be passed to the Church Commissioners for a decision.

### Pitching in help

TEAMS will not have to worry about waterlogged pitches this winter with an artificial pitch at Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill. To book call 01384 812942.

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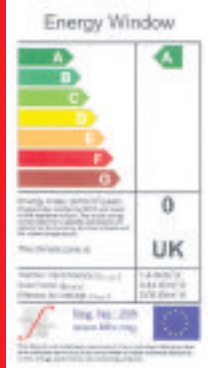
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## NEWS

# Stranded driver in hunt for flood rescue 'angel'

A DISABLED pensioner is searching for an "angel" called Ben who rescued her from her car when it was engulfed by a torrent of water after heavy rainfall.

Mariann Smith, aged 70, has described how the embankment, yards from the River Stour, suddenly "exploded", sending water cascading onto Hawne Lane, Halesowen, at the junction with Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.



**Mariann Smith**

She believes she would have died had it not been for the actions of a motorist called Ben, who talked to her to keep her calm until her son arrived and the two men managed to open the door, against the

force of the water, to free her. Mrs Smith, a widow who suffers with arthritis and walks with sticks, said: "He's an angel."

She was on her way to babysit four of her grandchildren in Cradley Heath at about 7am last Wednesday when the drama happened during heavy rain. Mrs Smith, of Woodridge Road, Halesowen, said: "I turned the corner and the embankment exploded with tons and tons of water that cascaded on to me and the car was full of water up to my chest."

She added: "I want to thank Ben so very much, without him I think I would have died."

The flood was caused by a sewer blockage, it emerged afterwards.

Neighbours of the flooding hotspot are calling for action by councils to keep drains clear after Mrs Smith's car



**Mariann Smith's car, the furthest away, trapped in water in Hawne Lane**

and another one cars were swamped when water cascaded on to the road.

Fire crews and Dudley Council said the water came from blocked drains in Hawne Lane but Sandwell Council said it originated in a Severn Trent Water sewer.

Residents in Clancey Way said the spot floods at least once a year and want both Sandwell and Dudley Councils to take action.

### Clean

Helen Rooney, aged 32, said: "It's flooded roughly once a year since I moved here four years ago."

Another resident, who asked not to be named, said: "I've complained to both Dudley and Sandwell Councils about the drains - they should clean them more often." Dudley Councillor Judy Foster

said: "This flood appears to have been caused by blocked drains and a blocked sewer so we have contacted Sandwell Council and Severn Trent."

Sandwell Councillor Ian Jones said it had now been established that a Severn Trent sewer was the source.

A teenage girl suffered serious head injuries when she was hit by a falling tree in High Street, Wollaston, near Stourbridge, at about 3.50pm on Thursday, while a second girl suffered a shoulder injury.

Both were treated at the scene before being taken to Dudley's Russell Hall Hospital. Neighbours in Paradise, Dudley, had a lucky escape when a tree crashed down into an empty house. It smashed into the roof and crushed fences.



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## LETTERS

# Decision delay an insult to Lenny

THE decision by Dudley MBC to further delay their decision to grant Lenny Henry the Freedom of the Borough is quite amazing.

To state that a working party of five councillors are looking at the criteria and guidelines governing the freedom honour is in my opinion laughable.

For a borough the size of Dudley not to have clearly established guidelines and agreed criteria for making such a distinguished honour on one of its own citizens, is a failure by the council, after all, surely it is not rocket science to agree such a criteria.

Many other councils Wolverhampton

and Sandwell to name but two have recognised established guidelines and criteria and Sandwell in particular have made the award recently.

I lived in Formby and worked in Liverpool for 12 years, and when people knew that I had previously lived in Sedgley, Dudley, they immediately recognised and knew of Dudley.

Not because of the castle; not because of the zoo and not because of the Black Country Museum. It was because of Lenny Henry, and they always referred to it as Dudley, because of Lenny's reference and how he pronounced it. I firmly believe

Lenny Henry thoroughly deserves the Freedom of the Borough of Dudley, and must be considered as a worthy recipient. He has never forgotten his Dudley and Black Country roots.

So Councillor Jones and the other councillors please put an end to this shambles of a farce, which at the moment makes you all look nothing but a laughing stock, and resolve this issue without further delay.

I look forward to the council granting Lenny's well-deserved honour pretty soon.

**MICHAEL F SAMPSON**  
Kingswinford

## Privilege to watch The Phantom at Ellowes

ON November 17, my friend and I had the privilege of going to see Phantom of the Opera, this year's production put on by the members and students of Ellowes Hall Sports College.

It was our first visit but it certainly won't be our last.

In the words of Strictly Come Dancing judge, Craig Revel Horwood, it was fab-u-lous!

All those who took part from centre stage to the most minor part, not forgetting the orchestra who were absolutely brilliant, each one gave a 110 percent.

If in the future Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber wishes to seek new talent can I suggest he comes to Gornal's Ellowes Hall. He won't be disappointed.

The only problem he will have is who can he choose, because there is so much talent within this group. Well done to you all.

**MRS MAUREEN MARSH**  
Lower Gornal

### LETTERS to the Editor

#### POST

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## School's production just gobsmacking

As a huge fan of musicals and in particular Phantom of the Opera, I was recently treated to a ticket for a school production of the show on November 14 at Ellowes Hall Sports College, Lower Gornal.

I have never been to a school production before and to be honest did not really fancy it on a drab Wednesday night, however, by the time I got home how differently I felt.

The professionalism and talent on show was truly gobsmacking and in my opinion the quality came close to a show that I've seen in the West End on several occasions. If I had not witnessed the performance personally, I would never have believed a local secondary school could be capable of such a superb production.

The entire cast were fantastic, with all the leading roles played outstandingly. The Phantom was genuinely menacing and at the same time vulnerable and the lovely young lady who played Christine had the voice of an angel and is surely destined for big things. The cast were fully deserving of their rapturous standing ovation as were the orchestra.

In a time when young people get such a bad press at times, I wanted to pass on my congratulations and praise

**MR M RUTTER**, Broad Street, Kingswinford

## Listen to people of borough on Lenny

I AM so disappointed in DMBC. Why did they ever say Lenny Henry could have the Freedom of the Borough?

I get so frustrated with DMBC and the time it takes for them to make decisions. Then when they make a decision they get it wrong, what incompetence.

If this council is looking out for our interests, who's looking out for them; who's giving them advice?

Maybe they should just listen to the people from Dudley Borough.

My advice to them is to stop embarrassing themselves and give our Lenny the freedom of the borough ASAP if he still wants it.

My advice to Lenny is to retract his support for Dudley Hippodrome if he wants the freedom of the borough. That said what really matters is what we the people think.

**GARRY SAWERS**  
Pensnett

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## NEWS

## Paralysed Cal honoured with a fundraising ball

HUNDREDS of people attended a charity ball in Brierley Hill organised in honour of a teenager paralysed in a BMX accident.

The ball was organised by the friends of Callum Loveridge, aged 18, of Wollaston, Stourbridge, who was badly injured when he landed awkwardly during a stunt on his bike on a woodland course near Kidderminster in 2010.

Hosted by the Copthorne Hotel, the event saw around 220 people attend, all of whom paid £35 a ticket.

After costs of entertainment and food were covered, proceeds went to the West Midlands Disability Swimming Association.

Organisers chose that cause as an attempt to give back to other charity groups in the community who have supported Cal over the past two years, and to mark the year of the Paralympic games.

Paralympic swimming star Claire Cashmore from Kidderminster helped raise funds for Cal earlier this year, inviting challengers to race her in the pool for a fee, which went to the Cal 4 U charity.

With the ball, Cal's friends returned the favour as £1,000 was handed to the West Midlands Disability Swimming Association.

Donations were also collected on the night in aid of the Balls to Cancer campaign, and people wore fake moustaches to mark the November moustache campaign.

Friend Nicky Fleming said: "We just wanted to give back for everyone else that has helped us."

Fundraising has included two charity dinners.



Callum Loveridge, Claire Cashmore, Kim and Adrian Loveridge, Charlotte Hill, Ketrina Hill, Nicky Fleming and Alison Booth, at the ball

### Scouts in political quiz

SCOUTS from Wyre Forest met up with MP Mark Garnier for a quiz in Parliament. More than 30 groups from across the country went head-to-head in the quiz hosted by TV's Henry Kelly. The event marked the launch of a new resource pack Talk this Way: From Scout to Speaker of the House which aims to teach youngsters about Parliament.

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## NEWS

## Plaque in honour of Tiptonian Harry

A PLAQUE has been unveiled to honour a founder member of the original Black Country Night Out show.

Harry Harrison, who died in August 2007, was renowned for his poetry and his humour, all delivered in the local dialect.

The plaque is fixed to Brook Street Community Centre, Tipton. The tribute was the idea of Tipton Community Association. Barry Whitehouse MBE, chairman of the association,



Tommy Mundon, centre, unveils a plaque with, left, Ray Hingley and Philip Harrison

said: "Harry was part of Tipton, he was born and bred in Tipton and was known up and down the

country for his Black Country humour and poems.

"He was a true Tiptonian and we felt that it was what he deserved." Harry was in his 80s when he died. He left wife Flo and son Philip. The Black Country Night Out tours originally ran from 1971 to 1991, but were then revived.

Hundreds of folk used to file through the doors of the legendary Robin Hood pub to see the shows in Brierley Hill.



Harry Harrison

## Christina celebrates a century surrounded by all her family



Centenarian Christina Webb celebrating her 100th birthday with her family

SHE has lived through two World Wars and has celebrated both the Queen's Coronation and Diamond Jubilee.

But this time the party was for centenarian Christina Webb as she marked her 100th birthday surrounded by her family.

Mrs Webb celebrated with her loved ones at Woodland Gate Care Home in Pedmore, Stourbridge.

She was taken out for a meal before tea and cake was served up at the care home. Mrs Webb was born in the family home in Hagley Road, Oldswinford. She was one of two sisters and had five brothers.

After leaving school she went to work at Harris and Pearson Brickworks in Bretell Lane, Brierley Hill before moving to work at EJ and J Pearson brickworks in the Delph area of Brierley Hill.

It was while working in the office at the brickworks that she met her now late husband Howard, who was working as an accountant.



Christina Webb in her younger days

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## MEMORY LANE



Pelsall Hall Sanatorium was for people recovering from TB. Here patients and staff are pictured in the grounds



The Charles family pictured at the rear of Pelsall Hall, the family home from 1785 to 1917



The Charles family enjoyed playing croquet on the lawn at Pelsall Hall, their home for generations



A view of Pelsall Hall from the rear garden

# Village's oldest home has a healthy history

**THE rich history of the oldest building in Pelsall is celebrated with the launch of a new book by local historian Annita Bates.**

The writer recently led a tour of Pelsall Hall Residential Home, on Paradise Lane, joined by Walsall Mayor Dennis Anson and around 30 other guests, as she walked and talked through the building's history.

The hall was first built as a manor house in 1616 and documents show that in 1622 it belonged to a Mr Dickenson of Pelsall and a Mr Sparrey of Kings Norton.

For six years it was then owned by a George Cradock who had been given it in 1637 by his mother, Elizabeth Cradock of Caverswall Castle. When Mr Cradock died of smallpox his wife Dorothy inherited the property. Dorothy Cradock married and her husband, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, took part ownership of the manor.

The couple also owned extensive

by Will Ackermann

areas of land around Pelsall, including the common lands.

In 1752 the Hussey Family of Little Wyrley moved into the property, before selling it in 1785 to Isaac Charles. It remained in the Charles family for generations, right up until 1917, when it was sold to Walsall Health Authority.

### Sanatorium

The Charles family held many fundraising events at the hall, including a tea party in 1877 where there was a marquee, a brass band, dancing, songs and speeches with tea.

Before the First World War plans had been made to open a sanatorium in Walsall for sufferers of tuberculosis, and in 1917 Pelsall Hall was bought from the Charles family and converted into such a facility. It officially opened on October 23, 1918, just a few weeks after the end of the war.

The sanatorium had 37 beds – 17 for men, 14 for women, and six for

children. Men and women were housed in open-walled blocks situated in the grounds of the hall, while the children's wards were within the main house.

The facilities were improved in 1924 when the old hall was converted into a dining and recreational area with a snooker table and a wireless.

By the mid-1930s patients were being cared for at a purpose-built hospital in Goscote. Patient numbers at Pelsall fell.

As a result, the sanatorium closed in 1950 and the hall became Walsall Nurse Training School.

It was not until 1988 that it became a care home for the elderly, run by Greensleeves Homes Trust, before undergoing a £3.5m refit in 2008.

Ms Bates' book, 'The Charles Family and Pelsall Hall', from which the photographs on this page are taken, is on sale in the Walsall branch of Waterstones and in Balloons, on High Street, Pelsall, from the beginning of December.



John Smith Charles and his wife Annie Snowdin Charles moved into Pelsall Hall in 1871



Pelsall Hall Sanatorium, which closed to patients in 1950

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## NEWS

# Aidan saw the beauty in life, says grieving mother

THE mother of a teenager, who died on a football field at school, has paid tribute to her son as someone who always saw the beauty in life.

Tividale youngster Aidan Nisbett, aged 15, collapsed while playing football at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy on November 16 and died later in hospital.



Aidan Nisbett

His mother Jackie Muir paid tribute to her happy son. She said: "Aidan was such a kind, happy, smiling person who always had a smile for everyone. He always saw the beauty of life and lived it to the max." She added: "He was a great friend and a great son. He was caring, loving and loyal, with a great sense of humour."

"He had everything a good person has and will always have a place in our hearts."

The principal of the Lower City Road, school has also paid tribute to the "keen sportsman", and friends have expressed their grief by laying flowers and lighting candles at the school.

His friends have also tweeted, to pay their respects. The youngster was playing football at an after-school club when he collapsed.

## Police given new powers

POLICE have been given new powers to move on troublemakers hanging around streets in Stourbridge. Officers from the Pedmore and Stourbridge East policing team have been granted a dispersal order around the Queensway area of Wollescote and covers Gauden Road, Powlers Close, Hob Green Road, Vickers Walk, Queensway and Sandhurst Avenue.

## Chipping in to help pets



Steven Alcock, aged 43, from Colley Gate, with pet dog Harvey and deputy chief inspector, Julie Lyons of the RSPCA

ANIMAL lovers got their pets micro-chipped for free at an action day at a Dudley community centre.

Dudley Council teamed up with the RSPCA to stage the event, which took place at Lye Community Centre, Crosswalks.

Dog and cat owners were invited to take their pets along. People were encouraged to make a donation to the charity.

Experts were also on hand to give general pet care advice to owners and answer any questions.

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# MPs plead for assistance as closures mean steel jobs go

**MPs are calling for action after steel giant Tata announced the closure of four sites, including three in the Dudley borough, with the loss of 117 jobs.**

Moves to shut sites in Dudley, Kingswinford, Cradley and Wombourne are part of a shake-up that will see 900 jobs go nationwide.

The Government is being urged to intervene and support the affected workers. In Dudley, 36 jobs will go, while in Kingswinford 18 are to be lost. In Cradley, 72 out of 82 workers will be transferred to Wednesfield, and a further 53 jobs will be lost in Wombourne.

Margot James, MP for Stourbridge, said she would be seeking assurances that the Cradley

site will be brought back into use. "Otherwise it will go for housing like so many other sites," she said. While Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire, said he would get in touch with Business Secretary Vince Cable.

"I will ask Vince Cable what can be done to support those people losing their jobs," he said. "I've also requested a meeting with one of the directors of Tata UK to see if there is any way they will rethink this decision."

"If they cannot then we need to ensure the sites are brought back into use for manufacturing as soon as possible."

"I will speak to the chief executive of South Staffordshire Council and to the chairman of the Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership to see if there is anything they can do to encourage businesses into the site in Wombourne. But

it will be important to speak with Tata to find out what their plans are in relation to making it an employment site as quickly as possible."

A worker at the Dudley site in Pedmore Road, who asked not to be named, said he was "gutted" and described it as "bad news before Christmas - especially for the lads with families".

Tata, which took over the Corus sites in 2006, said the moves were intended to make it more competitive as it coped with a steel market that has slumped by nearly a third in the past five years and showed little sign of recovery as the worldwide slump continues.

Paul Steele, managing director for distribution in the UK & Ireland, said: "We realise this proposal will be of great concern to our employees."



Gaz McCarthy with Bertie the blood vessel prepare

## Festive fun at fundraiser

A FUNDRAISER has dreamed up his latest charity event as he bids to raise cash in memory of his late mother.

Bus driver Gaz McCarthy has already hosted his own race night and plans to don his trainers for the London Marathon next April. But in the meantime, the 25-year-old has started preparations for a feast of fun, food and festive gifts on Saturday.

The Christmas extravaganza will take place at Brockmoor Community Centre, Pensnett Road, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, between 3pm and 7pm.

It is aiming to raise funds for the Leukaemia CARE charity after his mother, Andrea, lost her fight with the condition 10 years ago.

Entrance is £1 with under 16s free. Visit [www.twitter.com/gazmcCarthy](http://www.twitter.com/gazmcCarthy) to find out more.

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# New Year 2013

## What's New

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**FRENCH**

**New Beginners course starts:**  
Thurs. 7th Feb. 19.00-21.00, 7 wks. £36.20 #

**CREATIVE WRITING** Mon 14th Jan. 19.00-21.00. OR  
Mon 25th Feb. 19.00-21.00. Both 5 wks. £25.80 #

**INTRO TO SIGN LANGUAGE**  
Mon 25th Feb. 19.00-21.00, 10 wks. £51.60 #

**AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY**  
Tues 15th Jan 9.30-11.30 OR Mon 25th Feb. 13.30-15.30.  
Both 5 wks. £42.40 # Cons. £33.30 and £11

**CONTINUING FAMILY HISTORY**  
Mon 14th Jan. 13.30-15.30 OR Tues 26th Feb. 9.30-11.30.  
Both 5 wks. £36.40 #

**CREATE YOUR OWN WEBSITE** Wed 16th Jan.  
14.30-16.30 OR Thurs 17th Jan. 19.00-21.00. Both 7 wks. £51.00 #

**ADVANCED WEBSITE EDITING** **Short N'Sweet**  
Must have completed 'Create your own website course'  
Wed 13th Feb. 14.30-16.30 OR Thurs 14th Feb 19.00-21.00.  
Both 3 wks. £21.90 #

**AN INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL IMAGING**  
**USING PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS** Mon 7th Jan. 9.30-11.30 OR  
Tues 19th Feb. 13.30-15.30. Both 6 wks. £43.70 #

**CONTINUING DIGITAL IMAGING USING**  
**PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS** Tues 8th Jan. 13.30-15.30 OR Mon  
18th Feb. 9.30-11.30. Both 6 wks. £43.70 #

**WATERCOLOUR PAINTING FOR BEGINNERS**  
Mon 28th Jan. 14.30-16.30 3 wks. £21.90 # **Short N'Sweet**

**DRAWING FOR BEGINNERS** **Short N'Sweet**  
Mon 11th Mar. 14.30-16.30, 3 wks. £21.90 #

**PAINTING AND DRAWING** suitable for all levels  
Tues 8th Jan. 19.00- 21.00, 11 wks. £56.75 #  
Wed 9th Jan. 9.30- 11.30, 11 wks. £56.75 #  
Thurs 10th Jan. 9.30- 12.00, 11 wks. £71.00 #  
Thurs 10th Jan. 13.30- 15.30, 11 wks. £56.75 #

**CANAL ART: ROSES AND CASTLES**  
Tues. 5th Feb. 11.00-13.00 OR Mon 25th Feb. 19.00-21.00  
Both 5 wks. £25.80 #

**BLACK COUNTRY CRAFTS** **Short N'Sweet**  
Thurs 31st Jan. 19.00-21.00. OR Mon. 11th Mar. 9.30-11.30  
Both 3 wks. £21.90 #

**JEWELLERY MAKING** **Short N'Sweet**  
Mon. 28th Jan. 9.30-11.30 OR Thurs 14th Mar. 19.00-21.00  
Both 3 wks. £21.90 #

**Short N'Sweet** **AN INTRODUCTION TO NAIL ART**  
Wed 23rd Jan OR Wed 6th Mar Both 12.30-14.00. 4 wks. £21.90 #

**FACE PAINTING AND GLITTER TATTOOS**  
Mon 28th Jan. 19.00-21.00. 6 wks. £37.00 Cons. £29.25 and £11

**PATCHWORK AND EMBROIDERY** suitable for all levels  
Tues 15th Jan. OR Tues 26th Feb. Both 19.00-21.00. 5 wks  
£26.70 #

**PATCHWORK** Wed 9th Jan. 14.30-16.30. 11 wks. £56.80 #

**UPHOLSTERY AND SOFT FURNISHING** suitable for all levels  
Wed. 9th Jan. 12.00-14.00, 11 wks. £56.80 #  
Mon 14th Jan. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks £25.80 #  
Mon 25th Feb. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks £25.80 #

**NEEDLE FELT** Tues 5th Feb. 9.30-11.30 or Thurs 7th  
Feb. 19.00-21.00, 6 wks. £31.00.

**PLAY THE GUITAR** **New Beginners course starts:**  
Thurs 7th Feb. 20.00-21.00, 7 wks. £25.50 #  
Cont. Beginners: Thurs 10th Jan 19.00-20.00 11 wks. £40.40 #  
Improvers: Tues 8th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £56.80 #  
Intermediates: Mon 7th Jan. 19.00-21.00, 11 wks. £56.80 #

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**AN INTRODUCTION TO:****Short N'Sweet**

**REFLEXOLOGY**  
Tues 12th Mar. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.90 #

**AROMATHERAPY**  
Tues. 22nd Jan. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.90 #

**INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE**  
Tues 12th Feb. 19.00-21.00. 3 wks. £21.90 #

**MEDITATION** Thurs 31st Jan. OR Thurs 7th Mar  
19.00-20.30 Both 4 wks. £21.90 #

**FITNESS YOGA** @ Oakfield **Short N'Sweet**  
Fri 11th Jan. 11.15-12.30. 5 wks. £26.80 #

**FITNESS GLIDING** @ Oakfield **Short N'Sweet**  
Fri 15th Feb 11.15-12.15. 6 wks. £25.90 #

**PILATES**

Beginners: Thurs 10th Jan 18.00-19.00, 11 wks. £33.35 #  
Beg. @ Oakfield: Fri 11th Jan. 10.00-11.00, 10 wks. £36.40 #  
Improvers: Tues 8th Jan. 19.00-20.00, 11 wks. £33.35  
Improvers: Wed 9th Jan. 18.30-19.30, 11 wks. £33.35  
Improvers: Thurs 10th Jan. 19.05-20.05, 11 wks. £33.35  
Improvers: Thurs 10th Jan. 20.10-21.10, 11 wks. £33.35

**LEGS, BUMS & TUMS**

Tues 8th Jan. 20.05-21.05, 11 wks. £33.35

**BALLROOM and LATIN AMERICAN DANCING**  
All classes start Mon 7th Jan. for 11 wks. Beginners 18:30-19.30,  
£36.10. Improvers/ Intermediates 19.30-20.45, £45.10

**ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS**

All courses begin Mon 7th Jan. for 11 wks. £33.40.  
Beginners: 19.00-19.45. Improvers: 19.45-20.30.  
Intermediates: 20.30-21.15

**PRIVATE SWIMMING LESSONS**

In a group of 2 or 1 to 1. Contact the office for further details

**RLSS NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD**

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**RLSS NATIONAL RESCUE TEST for SWIMMING**  
**TEACHERS/COACHES** 1 day retake; Mon 22nd July 2013  
subject to previous qualification and training £36.90, add. fees  
£26.95. Full course: Tues 23rd July and Wed 24th July 2013,  
8.30-16.00, £57.80, add. fees £26.95.

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**EMERGENCY FIRST AID**

Fri. 8th Feb. OR Sat. 23rd Mar. Both 09.00-16.00. 1 day. £36.90

**PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY FIRST AID**

Sat 9th Feb. OR Fri. 22nd Mar. Both 09.00-13.00. 1/2 day £24.55

**START YOUR OWN BUSINESS**

Tues 29th Jan 19.00-21.00 8 wks. £41.30 #

**INTRO. TO TRADING ON THE STOCK MARKET**

Mon. 21st Jan 19.00-21.00 4 wks £20.70 #

**BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY**

Wed 23rd Jan. 9.30-11.30. Mon 4th Mar. 19.00 -21.00 All 4 wks.  
£29.15. #

**COMPUTING for the TERRIFIED**

Learn to use a computer from scratch! Day and evening 4 wk  
courses start Mon 21st Jan. 19.00 -21.00 OR Wed. 6th Mar. 9.30-  
11.30. £29.15 #.

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**COMPUTERS** Mon 13th May 19.00-20.30. 6 wks. £43.70 #

**AND SOCIAL MEDIA: FACEBOOK, TWITTER,**  
**SKYPE, YOU TUBE. WHATS THE FUSS?**

Tues. 7th May 19.00-20.30. 6 wks. £43.70 #

**ADULT SWIMMING:** Mon. 11.50-12.35, Tues. 19.00-20.00,  
Thurs. 19.00-20.15. All £2.60

**AQUAFIT:** Tues. 12.40-13.20, Fri. 11.50-12.35. £2.60.  
Wed. 19.00-20.00, Sun. 9.00-10.00. £3.70

**FITNESS SWIM** Mon. 18.00-18.45. £1.60  
for young people 10-19 yrs old

Community programme starts 7th Jan  
No sessions 17th Dec to 6th Jan. inc.  
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16.45-17.45 OR 17.45-18.45.  
£52.50

Intermediates: Thurs 10th Jan..  
17.45-18.45. 11 wks. £48.40

**LEARNING4LIFE SWIM SCHOOL**

**TERM DATES :** Mon 7th Jan.-Thurs 28th Mar. 2013 excluding  
Mon 18th Feb. to Sun 24th Feb. 2012. Mon to Thurs 11 wks. Fri  
Sat, Sun 10wks

	10 WKS	11 WKS
<b>COST:</b> First Steps, Pre Beg. Beg. Improve.	£41.00	£45.10
Intermediates 1, 2 and 3	£35.50	£39.05
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We operate 7 days a week and offer sessions at the following  
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buoyancy aids when needed. Five different 'Stanley' incentive badges award  
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**Pre-Beginner:** Min age 4 1/2 years. Provides familiarisation activities and skills  
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**Beginner:** Min age 4 1/2 years. Provides skill development to swim 5m on a  
front stroke and 5m back crawl.

**Improver:** Improves aquatic skills and stamina to swim 15m on a front stroke  
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**Intermediate 1:** Develops confidence in deep water and front crawl breathing  
action to swim 20 meters on a front stroke and 20m back crawl.

**Intermediate 2:** Helps to build stamina and endurance to swim 50m on a front  
stroke and 25m on back crawl.

**Intermediate 3:** Develops competence on all four strokes (25m) and a front and  
back stroke for 100m.

**Water Skills:** To develop survival and rescue skills.

**Rookie Lifeguard:** Learn new skills, have fun and overcome challenges. Min.  
age 9 years. Must be able to swim 20 m on a front stroke and 20 m on a back  
stroke.

**Survive & Swim:** Min age 11.5 years. Must be able to swim 20m on a front  
stroke and 20 m on a back stroke. Develops water safety knowledge, first aid,  
self rescue, survival skills, lifesaving techniques. Can test speed and stamina in  
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## Surviving students

PUBLIC services students at Halesowen College have learned to put new navigational and survival skills to the test on an overnight residential stay.

The first year Level Three and Level Two students have been putting their skills to the test on the camping trip to Upton Warren.

They were dropped at a start point with a map and compass and had to find their way to camp and carry all their kit, while being fully supervised.

They then had to pitch their tent and cook their evening meal.

## Engineering firm's joy over £2m deal



An engineer at work on 37-ton nuclear defuelling crane

AN ENGINEERING company in Kingswinford has scooped a lucrative £2 million defence contract supplying machinery for use in a nuclear submarine project.

TM Engineers is manufacturing a 37-ton defuelling crane to remove rods from the reactor of Trafalgar-class submarines.

The firm, which employs around 50 staff at its site in Oak Lane, said it was delighted to have secured the deal from Babcock International and Devonport Royal Dockyard. Managing director Robert Holland said: "It is a feather in the cap to work on such a high profile project. It is great that the firm is working at the pinnacle of engineering."

It has been a successful time for the firm after it won and completed a prestigious £750,000 deal to build parts for the famous Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland. The firm works mainly on heavy steel fabrications, is also hoping to take on four apprentices in the coming months.



Rachel Cooper was commended in the Against All Odds category of the Morgan Foundation awards

## Business honour for battling Rachel

A MOTHER-OF-TWO from Brierley Hill has battled back against debilitating illness to be honoured with an entrepreneurial awards organised by Wolves owner Steve Morgan.

Rachel Cooper, aged 34, contracted a condition five years ago which attacked the nerves to her brain.

It has left her needing support to leave the house each day as she struggles to walk unaided for more than a few yards and maintain her balance without falling.

But Miss Cooper, of Victoria Street, has ploughed her energy into starting her business with the help of her partner Brett. She happened

on the idea to open a store stocking school uniforms after seeing the difficulties faced by parents firsthand.

What started as a business from home has expanded and the BNR shop is now open in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall, Dudley.

### Massive

Miss Cooper received a highly commended award in the Against All Odds category at a recent Morgan Foundation event.

"It is wonderful to have received this honour and it's been through the massive support of my family that I've been able to achieve this," she said.

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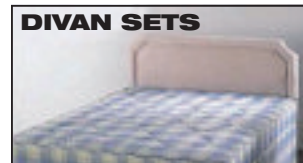
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NEXT TO MATALAN



## NEWS

## Wrapping effort at day centre

STAFF and users of the Meeting Place within Halas Homes Day Centre, Halesowen, have been sharing Christmas spirit by wrapping hundreds of gifts donated to the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service Ho Ho Hope Operation Santa toy appeal.

Dudley CVS spokesman Eileen Fielding said: "We have received hundreds of items so far, but we are looking for even more donations if we are to beat last year's record-breaking appeal."

"Last year we brought smiles to the face of 3,835 under-privileged local children, but even that is a fraction of the 15,000 children in Dudley who are living in households where income is below the poverty threshold."

Charities, voluntary groups, council, businesses, emergency services and individuals are supporting the appeal.

Collection points have been set up in the area.

## Smarter Mathew scoops up £10,000

## Sickness no barrier to gold celebrations

ILLNESS did not stop Norman and Wendy Whitehouse from celebrating 50 years of marriage.

Mr Whitehouse, aged 77, relies on a cylinder oxygen supply 24 hours a day but, with the help of a portable one, he was able to be out for three hours – enough time for him, his wife and their family to enjoy a meal out together.

His wife Wendy, 74, said: "It was lovely to have the family there with us."

Mr Whitehouse has already battled bowel cancer and is now fighting heart and lung problems.

Mrs Whitehouse said she still does her best to look after him at their home in Upland Drive, Sedgley.

She added: "You've got to, haven't you? He's my husband."

Reflecting on five decades together, Mrs Whitehouse said: "We love each other."

"We've had our ups and downs like anybody but we've carried on."



Golden couple – Wendy and Norman Whitehouse and, inset, on their wedding day

A CARPENTER from Stourbridge held his nerve to win £10,000 on television show Deal or No Deal – after he was told by the banker to smarten himself up. Self-employed carpenter Mathew Churchman snapped up the cash on the Channel 4 television show which was broadcast last week.

Mr Churchman told host Noel Edmonds he married his wife Gemma at Mary Stevens Hospice after the couple moved the wedding forward because his mother was seriously ill.

The couple gained special permission from the Archbishop of Canterbury to get married at the hospice.

And after scooping the cash he said it would pay for a second wedding for his wife.

Mr Churchman, who had chosen box 13, was sent away by the banker to smarten himself up.

After starting off the show with his long hair worn loose, a t-shirt and cardigan, after the first advert break he came back in a suit and tie with his hair tied back.

The £250,000 box was opened quite early on in the game.

He turned down offers of £13,000, £1,300, £9,000 and £11,500, and described having to decide the £11,500 offer as "the biggest decision of my life".

But he rejected it and then lost the £75,000. When he was left with



Before – Mathew Churchman



After – Mathew's smarter look

1p, £10, £50, £25,000 and £50,000, Mr Churchman made an offer of £10,000. He described it as a "very good offer" and dealt. It turned out he only had £50 in his box.

Noel told him: "You've won absolutely everybody over." Mr Churchman said he was elated.

NEWS  
in brief

## Death-charge driver faces trial

A PENSIONER accused of causing death by driving dangerously had his case sent to crown court. Michael Worrall, of Withern Way, Lower Gornal, appeared at Dudley Magistrates' court last week.

Worrall, aged 69, is accused of causing the death of Geoffrey Harris by driving his Vauxhall Astra dangerously on Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, on February 27. He was bailed to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on February 15.

## Help offered at event for carers

CARERS' rights and technology to help carers will come under the spotlight when Dudley takes part in a national awareness day.

Dudley Carers' Network is holding events at Dudley Library, St James's Road, and Kingswinford Library, High Street, between 10am and 2pm on Friday.

## Great grotto going



Santa and his helpers, Jessica Wise, Louise Hampton and Nicky Sendall, get their skates on with Kidderminster figure skater Marie Keeland and her young son Jordan

SNOW, cheeky elves, reindeer and ice skating will welcome youngsters to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Dudley.

There will be a Santa's Grotto every day until Christmas Eve and an animated film telling the story of Elbow, a lovable elf who saves Christmas.

It features stereoscopic 3D visuals, wind and snow effects, and "elf dust" as Elbow tries to save Santa's presents from bad elf Fumble. An outdoor ice skating rink is available at the centre until January 6.

The grotto is on the lower mall by Debenhams.

## Merry Hill blitz sees 19 banned

NINETEEN people have been banned from the Merry Hill shopping centre since a new crackdown on trouble-makers began almost three weeks ago.

Police launched the zero tolerance scheme to reduce anti-social behaviour, shoplifting and other crimes around the complex.

They want to create a safer environment for shoppers.

They said a total of 19 shoppers had now received bans ranging from three months to a year after being caught by officers using head-cams and security teams.

The crackdown also aims to tackle cheque or card fraud, assaults against business employees and alcohol

related violence. Sgt Andy Springthorpe said: "We will be increasing patrols on the run up to Christmas and sharing information about offenders with the security and shops in the centre."

"A no-tolerance approach will be used by the team of officers and security staff to ensure that the Merry Hill Centre continues to be a low crime area."

## First

"The head-cams will allow us to film areas such as the bus station, giving us an extra pair of eyes to help us prevent incidents before they happen".

Among the first to receive bans was a 23-year-old man from Bilston, who was excluded for 12 months.

## Make the most of your home with no hassle, no worry home improvements

If you are a homeowner aged 55 plus and are struggling to improve or repair your home, our new home improvement service could be the answer.

**We offer a free support package - all work and arrangements managed by the council, for you**

We also offer independent financial advice and can help with arranging funding for your home improvements. Our service makes it simple to unlock the value tied up in your property and update it using one of our specialist loans tailored to meet the needs of older people.

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## CLUB NEWS

### History of long-lost mansions

#### WORDSLEY 'M' TOWNSWOMEN

THE November meeting was opened by chairman for the day, Wendy Lloyd, and then presided over by Ann Birchill. Minutes of the previous group meeting were signed and treasurer Josie Bunn gave a detailed review of the accounts to date.

The Federation Christmas carol service, followed by tea/coffee and mince pies, is on December 8 at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge. 'The Birds' from Brierley Hill Choral Society will be singing.

Members were asked if they were interested in an afternoon concert at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and a show at Malvern in late spring.

From March 19 to 23 the musical High Society will be performed at Brierley Hill Civic Hall. The Grand, Wolverhampton, will present Blood Brothers in May.

Wendy introduced Ian Bott who gave a well-researched and informative pictorial presentation entitled 'Lost Mansions of the Black Country'.

Bradley Hall, Kingswinford, built in 1596, Sandwell Hall 1705, Beaudesert Hall, luxuriously furnished, the fire damaged Ellows Hall all now gone, but thanks go to people like Ian who keep the history and stories of these grand residences alive.

December 17 will be a bring and share Christmas social with entertainment.

## MP gives report on Parliamentary affairs



Back; Treasurer Betty Griffin, assistant treasurer Ann Rogers, Councillor Patrick Harley; Front; vice chairman Jean Corns and Chris Kelly MP for Dudley South

#### DUDLEY SOUTH LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

VICE chairman Jean Corns welcomed 42 members and two special guests, MP Mr Chris Kelly and Councillor Patrick Harley to November's open meeting.

Mr Kelly had been speaker on two previous occasions during two-and-a-half-years as an MP, and began by assuring everyone he was not planning to take part in I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here - just yet.

He gave an overview of recent events in Parliament, answered any questions and explained the reasoning behind the new Police and Crime Commissioners.

In December members will be entertained by the Haven Singers and by artist Geoff Tristram in January.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month. Call 01902 372984.

## 65th birthday celebrated

#### WEST BROM CENTRAL TOWNSWOMEN

THE November meeting saw a moving and fascinating talk by Caroline Nash-Smith and Janet Carleton.

It was entitled "Life's Treasures" - a company founded by Caroline and her daughter Anita to support ethnically based projects throughout the world.

Members were impressed by the quality of the goods on offer and were delighted to contribute by buying items. The chairman thanked the

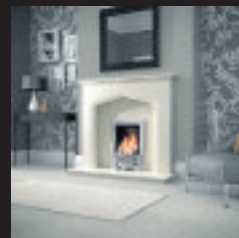
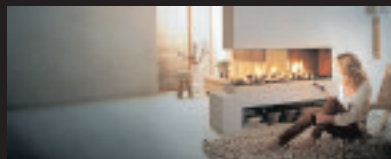
speakers for their excellent presentation.

On November 5, members celebrated the West Bromwich Guild's 65th birthday with lunch at Sandwell Golf Club. The Christmas afternoon tea takes place on December 10 at 2pm in Moose Hall, Woodward Street.

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<b>Echo Falls (Varieties)</b> 75cl <b>2 for £8.00</b>	<b>Echo Falls red White &amp; Rose</b> 75cl <b>3 for £10.00</b>	<b>Blossom Hill Red, White &amp; Rose</b> 75cl <b>3 for £10.00</b>	<b>Blossom Hill White Zinfandel, White Grenache</b> 75cl <b>3 for £11.00</b>	<b>Barefoot (Varieties)</b> 75cl <b>2 for £9.00</b>	<b>Kumala (Varieties)</b> 75cl <b>2 for £8.00</b>	<b>Casillero Del Diablo, Cabernet Sauvignon &amp; Merlot</b> 75cl <b>2 for £10.00</b>	<b>Black Tower Rose, White</b> 75cl <b>2 for £8.00</b>	<b>Mateus Rose</b> 75cl <b>2 for £8.00</b>
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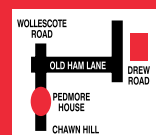
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## COMPETITION

# Chocolate ticket treat is a real gift

CADBURY World's Christmas celebration weekends have been launched and Chronicle readers have the chance to win one of 10 family tickets.

Weekends will be packed with seasonal fun including an enchanting pantomime production of Aladdin, complete with puppets, original songs and plenty of laughs.

Elsewhere, children will have the chance to meet Father Christmas in his grotto and receive a free small gift.

You can also visit the Cadbury Café and buy festive fare from the Yuletide Menu, as well as limited edition handmade seasonal chocolates from the World's Biggest Cadbury Shop.

In addition to these seasonal activities you will also have the chance to journey through Cadbury World's 14 amazing zones.

Take a trip through the Aztec Jungle zone and learn about the origins of the cocoa bean before walking through a full scale replica of Bull Street where John Cadbury opened his first shop in 1824.

Discover how Cadbury chocolate is made, before climbing on board the magical Cadabra ride for a gentle journey through a chocolate wonderland. Have a go at writing your own name in smooth liquid chocolate in the demonstration area.

Finally, finish your journey in the Essence zone where you can choose your favourite treat to be smothered in warm liquid Cadbury Dairy Milk.

Cadbury World's 14 amazing zones will put a smile on even the grumpiest Scrooge's face! The attraction's family ticket allows two adults and two children to experience the celebration weekends' fabulous festivities, guaranteed to leave you wishing it could be Christmas every day. For more information visit [www.cadburyworld.co.uk](http://www.cadburyworld.co.uk)



Seasonal fun with the production of the pantomime Aladdin



Chance to meet Santa in the grotto



### HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning, answer this:

**When did John Cadbury open his first shop?**

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Cadbury Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Monday, December 3. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

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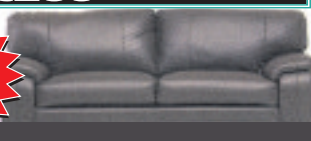
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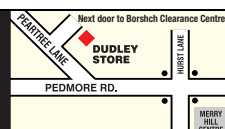
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# What's On! Halesowen

## Students cook up festive meals

STUDENTS will be serving up some festive grub on a series of theme nights. Halesowen College's own restaurant will be open for business for a Christmas feast from December 11.

Diners can taste a host of favourites including roast chestnut, roasted butter-nut squash and bramley apple soup and roast turkey with all the trimmings.

The restaurant will also be given a festive makeover with decorations and a Christmas tree. The menu will run through to December 14 and December 17 to 20. Call 0121 602 7851 to book.

## Magical journey through wardrobe

DUDLEY Little Theatre Company presents the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe from next Wednesday until Saturday at Netherton Arts Centre in Northfield Road.

The adaptation of the well-loved tale of good and evil takes the audience on a magical mystery tour of the land of Narnia with four children, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, who stumble into this strange land through the wardrobe and encounter the wicked White Witch of the North.

Tickets are available from 01384 872583.

## Club holds bazaar

A WINTER bazaar with a Santa's grotto will take place on Saturday from noon to 2pm at Cradley Sports & Social Club, Colley Lane, Cradley. Admission is free.

# Join Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad on the riverbank

**BIRMINGHAM Rep heads to the riverbank this Christmas for a production of Alan Bennett's adaptation of The Wind In The Willows.**

Kenneth Grahame's charming tale of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Toad is brought to the stage at the Crescent Theatre.

## Classic 80s rock double

IT will be a dream double bill for fans of 1980s rock at Birmingham's O2 Academy when James bring their tour The Gathering Sound to the city with special guests Echo And The Bunnymen.

The gig on April 25 is the penultimate of a ten-date UK tour, which ends with a big Arena show in James' home city of Manchester. Lead singer Tim Booth said: "We will be re-working old songs and revealing some new steps - expect the unexpected and prepare yourself for more passion that Fifty Shades of Grey."

James, whose hits include Come Home and the classic Sit Down, are releasing a boxed set including all 12 of their studio albums.

Birmingham Rep is using the Sheepcote Street venue, just off Broad Street, as one of its venues during the work to incorporate the repertory theatre into the city's new library complex.

This new production by Gwenda Hughes, who has directed 25 Birmingham Rep shows, is aimed at families and is described as a traditional production true to The Wind In The Willows people have known and loved since childhood.

A cast of 16 actor-musicians will bring a host of wonderful characters to life. Playing Toad is Matthew Douglas, a graduate of Birmingham University, who starred in The Rep's Travesties and The Importance of Being Earnest.

The show opened last night (Wednesday) and continues until January 19. Tickets range from £9 to £28. see [www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk) or call the box office on 0121 236 4455.

## Win tickets to the ultimate pop party



Up-and-coming pop group Lawson, who recently released their debut album Chapman Square, join JLS and many others at the Free Radio Live concert at the LG Arena on December 15

ONE of Birmingham's biggest music events is coming to the LG Arena and Westfield Merry Hill is giving Chronicle readers a chance to win tickets to the big Christmas pop party!

Birmingham-based station Free Radio is teaming up with Westfield Merry Hill for Midlands Free Radio Live - a night of chart-topping entertainment with some of the biggest names in pop.

Free Radio Live will kick off the Christmas party season on December 15 and five lucky readers will receive a family ticket for four people, worth £120, giving access to the event. Merry Hill will itself get the festivities into full swing when it opens until midnight on weekdays from December 17.

### Line-up

The Midlands' biggest party will feature JLS, fellow X-Factor stars Leona Lewis, Amelia Lily and most recent victors Little Mix. McFly and popular pop rockers Scouting For Girls will also form part of the line-up, alongside Labrinth and Stoopse.

Also joining the galaxy of stars will be up-and-coming band Lawson, who are no stranger to the Midlands having recently switched on Merry Hill's Christmas lights.

For your chance to see all these top performers in one place, simply answer the following question: Which pop group switched on the Christmas lights at Westfield Merry Hill this year?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Live Competition, Chronicle Series, Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES.

Usual rules apply and the editor's decision is final.

## Time for tea and vintage bags

STYLISH vintage clothes and bags will be on sale for fashionistas to pick up a bargain at a charity vintage tea party on Sunday.

The event, hosted by Martial Arts Concepts, Hereward Rise, Halesowen, is between 2pm and 5pm.

Hannah Picken, aged 20, organised it to help the Alzheimer's Society.

Her grandmother, Gladys McKenzie, lost a 10-year battle with Alzheimer's in March.

## Pub holds tribute nights of music

TWO tribute acts will take to the stage to entertain revellers at a pub near Halesowen this weekend.

Phil Collins tribute act But Seriously will be playing at the Knights Quest pub, in Blackheath High Street tomorrow night (Fri).

On Saturday, fans of Ska and Two Tone, can hit the dancefloor when AKA Ska Face play.

Entrance to both nights is £3.

## Cheese innings

PEOPLE can have a sophisticated night out at Halesowen Cricket Club with a cheese and wine evening. The annual event returns on December 28 with tickets priced £10 available from the club house in Dog Kennel Lane. There will be a wide variety of cheeses and 20 wines from around the world on offer.

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## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 1.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Michael Jackson

**Michael Jackson: Bad 25 BBC2, 9.45pm**

It's hard to believe that it's over three years ago already that the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, passed away. It's even harder to believe that it's a quarter of a century since he released his seminal album, *Bad*, which spawned five consecutive US number one singles. As a celebration of this latter milestone, Spike Lee directs this insightful documentary which examines the album and its impact. He speaks to those involved in the creation of the album, as well as celebrity fans including Martin Scorsese, Walter Yetnikoff and Kanye West.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Regional News. Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. Weather. **5.30** A Question of Sport.

**6.00** **Pointless Celebrities.** Ulrika Jonsson, Rowland Rivron, David Hamilton, Tony Blackburn, Austin Healey, Scott Quinnell, Tim Vine and Karen Taylor take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz.

**6.50** **Strictly Come Dancing.** The twinkle-toed celebrities take another step closer to lifting the glitterball trophy. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present, with Len Goodman and his panel passing comment. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm.

**8.00** **Merlin.** The warlock tries to break Morgana's hold over the Queen.

**8.45** **The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws.** John Partridge reveals the all-important winning numbers.

**8.55** **Casualty.** A mother with Down's syndrome is accused of poor parenting. Dylan's suspicions about Amanda deepen and Tom is confronted by an unwelcome face from the past.

**9.45** **Live at the Apollo.** With Kevin Bridges, Phill Jupitus and Sara Pascoe.

**10.15** BBC News: Weather.

**10.30** Match of the Day. Including Manchester City v Everton, National Lottery Update.

**12.05** The Football League Show.

**12.45** Film: Westworld. (1973)

**2.10** Weatherview. **2.15** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **12.00** Coast. (R) **12.05** Animal Park. (R) **1.05** Film: The Gay Divorcee. (1934) Musical comedy, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **2.45** Film: Houseguest. (1995) Comedy, starring Sinbad and Phil Hartman. **4.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The opening day of the ranking tournament at the Barbican Centre in York. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

**6.30** **Great British Food Revival.** Gary Rhodes makes the medieval dish pottage as he champions runner and broad beans, while Allegra McEvvey shows there is more to oats than porridge. Last in the series.

**7.30** **Dad's Army.** A secret weapon goes haywire and threatens Walmington-on-Sea, so Mainwaring and his platoon speed to the rescue in Corporal Jones's van. (R)

**8.00** **Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild.** David Attenborough reflects on environmental changes during his film-making career and the revolution in attitudes towards nature. Last in the series. (R)

**9.00** **QIXL.** Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz with a difference, featuring Julian Clary, Ross Noble, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies answering question on the theme of jumpers.

**9.45** **Michael Jackson: Bad 25.** Spike Lee's documentary assessing and celebrating Michael Jackson's 1987 album *Bad*, featuring interviews with Martin Scorsese, Kanye West and Sheryl Crow.

**12.00** Snooker: UK Championship. **12.50** Snooker Extra. **2.50** Close.

## ITV1

**6.00** CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** The Avengers. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Shake It Up. **9.00** My Phone Genie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Film: Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) **1.20** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **3.30** The Unforgettable Hattie Jacques. (R) **4.00** Jonathan & Charlotte. (R) **5.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.15** ITV News: Weather. **5.30** The Golden Rules of TV.

**6.00** **New You've Been Framed!** A fresh selection of comical clips.

**6.30** **Take Me Out.** A Cornwall coach driver, a rock musician from Lancashire, a professional rugby player from Cardiff and a Leicester engineer take part. Paddy McGuinness hosts. Last in the series.

**8.00** **The X Factor.** The acts battle to win places in the final.

**9.30** **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec present the final. Last in the series.

**10.30** ITV News: Weather. **10.45** FA Cup Highlights. Action from the second-round matches.

**11.45** Film: *Serenity*. (2005) Sci-fi adventure.

**1.45** The Store. ITV News. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightseries. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Beach Volleyball. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Frasier. (R) **9.25** T4: Frasier. (R) **10.00** T4: Made in Chelsea. **11.05** T4: Suburgatory. **11.40** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.15** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.20** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. **4.55** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. **5.25** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland. **5.55** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland.

**6.25** **Celebrity Come Dine with Me Ireland.** Former rugby union player Shane Byrne hosts the final dinner party.

**6.55** **Channel 4 News.** **7.25** **4thought.tv.** **7.30** **Heston's Fantastical Food.** Heston Blumenthal opens a Willy Wonka-inspired sweet shop, recreating some of the nation's favourite confectionery on a massive scale. (R)

**8.30** **Stephen Fry: Gadget Man.** Technology that makes shopping and cooking easier and more entertaining. (R)

**9.00** **Film: Star Trek.** (2009) The first mission of the starship Enterprise leads the crew into a battle against a vengeful Romulan captain from the future. Adventure, starring Chris Pine.

**11.25** **Film: The X-Files: I Want to Believe.** (2008) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson.

**1.25** **Film: Steel Magnolias.** (1989) **3.25** Hollywoods. **5.30** Countdown. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.55** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.55** Film: Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve. **3.35** Film: The Christmas Gift. (1986) Drama, starring John Denver. **5.20** Film: Our First Christmas. (2008) Family drama, starring Julie Warner.

**7.10** **Film: Catwoman.** (2004) A murdered graphic designer returns to life as a wily avenger with the strength and agility of a cat. Superhero adventure, starring Halle Berry, Sharon Stone and Benjamin Bratt.

**8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Live International Boxing.** Tyson Fury v Kevin Johnson. Coverage of the heavyweight bout staged at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast, where both men will hope a victory leads to a world title shot.

**11.00** **Shamot 11: Alex Reid Returns.** Alex Reid v Sam Boo and Jack Marshman v Xavier Fouta-Pokam. Action from the mixed martial arts event staged at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

**12.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.05** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Jumping off the Auckland Sky Tower. (R) **4.25** Great Artists. The life and legacy of Albrecht Dürer. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. Historical spotlight on scenic counties in the UK. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. Myrtle the turtle receives help in learning to count. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. Kemi goes rollerskating. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. Duncan struggles because of snow. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** International Rugby Union **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **9.45** Film: Pretty Woman (1990) **11.40** Family Guy

**BBC Four** **7.00** Metalworks! - The Blacksmith's Tale **8.00** Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? **9.00** The Killing III **11.00** More Old Jews Telling Jokes **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1977

**ITV2** **4.15** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.45** Film: Garfield (2004) **7.25** Film: Batteries Not Included (1987) **9.30** The X Factor **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **11.30** Take Me Out - The Gossip

**ITV3** **3.10** Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.05** Brides in the Bath

**ITV4** **12.30** Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **5.15** England's Greatest Tournament Games **6.10** Cheers. Coach goes on a date. **6.45** Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **11.30** Hamish & Andy's Euro Gap Year

**E4** **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Rules of Engagement **9.00** Derren Brown: The Gameshow **10.05** Film: Scary Movie (2000) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory

**Film4** **3.45** True Grit (1969) **6.20** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **9.00** Crash (2004) Oscar-winning drama, starring Matt Dillon and Sandra Bullock. **11.15** The Omen (2006)



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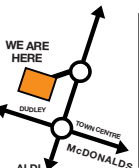
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## SUNDAY'S TV 2.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Katherine Jenkins

**Steppin' Out with Katherine Jenkins**  
**ITV1, 9pm**  
We're told this special one-off featuring the Welsh mezzo-soprano is going to be a showcase of 'spectacular song and dance routines in an evening of glitz and glamour.' Apparently, its producers are stopping at nothing to recreate the old-style, 1940s Hollywood look, with a series of guests they hope will be able to emulate the era. Among those taking part are award-winning quartet Il Divo, girl band Stoochie, Britain's Got Talent finalists Only Boys Aloud and former Strictly Come Dancing champion Tom Chambers.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets John Barrowman. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile. (R) **1.00** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Call the Midwife. (R) **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **5.50** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **6.20** Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore the South Downs, discovering how the countryside inspired author Jane Austen and naturalist Gilbert White. **7.20** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple perform their last dance, and JLS sing. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. The experts visit Aberystwyth in west Wales, where finds include a painting that may be by an important Welsh artist, a kimono with a long history and items of Poole Pottery. **9.00** The Secret of Crickley Hall. Eve receives information about her missing son. Last in the series. **10.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Norwich City v Sunderland. **11.15** The Graham Norton Show. With Jake Gyllenhaal, Joan Rivers, Jeremy Clarkson and James May. (R) **12.00** The Sky at Night. **12.20** Film: The Two Mr Kissels. (2008) **1.45** Weather. **1.50** Sign Zone: Film 2012. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** Operation Iceberg. (R) **4.20** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off Masterclass. (R) **12.30** International Rugby Union. **1.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.30** Fawcett Towers. The death of a guest leads to all manner of mayhem as Basil tries to conceal the corpse from the hotel's other occupants. Guest starring Geoffrey Palmer. (R) **7.00** Best of Top Gear. Further highlights from the show's 17th and 18th series, in which Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May got up to more motoring mischief. (R) **8.00** Return to Forgotten Britain. Part two of two. Fergal Keane revisits communities in Glasgow and Leeds, where he finds out how the areas and their residents have fared in the past 12 years. **9.00** Dragons' Den. Ideas and innovations include frozen cocktails, a safety product for babies, a device to stop tights falling down and an inflatable Christmas tree. Last in the series. **10.00** Harry & Paul. Highlights from the third series. Last in the series. **10.30** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With host Alex Horne and guests Louis Smith and Paloma Faith. (R) **11.00** I've Never Seen Star Wars. Jo Brand invites Stephen Fry to sample new cultural experiences. (R) **11.30** Snooker: UK Championship. First-round highlights on day two in York. **12.20** Snooker Extra. **2.20** BBC News. **4.00** Close.

## ITV1

**6.00** CITV: Engie Benji. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Big Time Rush. **8.30** Good Luck Charlie. **9.00** Good Luck Charlie. **9.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.20** Film: Carry On Cruising. (1962) **12.00** ITV News; Weather. **12.05** Live FA Cup Football. **3.00** Farewell Jack. (R) **3.30** The X Factor. (R) **5.00** The Nation's Favourite Number 1 Single. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Coronation Street. Hour-long episode. Tommy struggles to cope with Tina's pregnancy. **8.00** The X Factor Results. The acts find out who has made it through to the final. **9.00** Steppin' Out with Katherine Jenkins. A cabaret show featuring the classical singer and star guests, including the Overtones and Only Boys Aloud. Actor Mark Benton takes on the role of master of ceremonies. **10.15** ITV News; Weather. **10.30** FA Cup Highlights. Action from the second-round matches. **11.30** Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 10th round of fixtures. **12.25** Grimefighters. (R) **12.55** The Store. ITV News Headlines. **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Sailing: America's Cup Discovered. (R) **7.35** Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc. **8.05** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **2.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **2.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.10** Deal or No Deal. **5.10** Film: Miracle on 34th Street. (1994) **7.20** Channel 4 News. **7.50** 4thought. **8.00** Alien Investigations. Documentary examining alleged alien sightings from the past five years, carrying out a thorough analysis of the body of a supposed extraterrestrial infant found in Mexico. **9.00** Homeland. Brody makes an important phone call. Saul teams up with Virgil and Max to dig out information on one of their own, and Carrie prepares for a vital breakfast meeting. **10.00** Peep Show. Mark's book Business Secrets of the Pharaohs is accepted by a publisher. **10.30** British Comedy Awards Nominations Show 2012. A look ahead to this year's ceremony. **11.35** Rude Tube: Rude Zoo. A selection of the internet's funniest animal clips. (R) **12.30** Fishing for Trouble. **1.00** American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Make Do & Mend. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Castle Farm. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Chinese Food in Minutes. **11.25** The Singing Frier. **11.55** Ro's Animal Clinic. (R) **12.55** Film: Road to Christmas. (2006) **2.40** Film: Jack Frost. (1998) **4.35** 5 News Weekend. **4.40** Film: Rush Hour 2. (2001) **6.30** Film: Superman II. (1980) The Man of Steel returns to take on a trio of super-powered fugitive villains from his home planet of Krypton. Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve and Terence Stamp. **9.00** Film: Magnum Force. (1973) Action thriller sequel, starring Clint Eastwood. **11.30** Film: Road House 2: Last Call. (2006) Action thriller sequel, starring Johnathon Schaech. **1.15** SuperCasino. **4.05** House Doctor. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hanna's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Junior Doctors: Your Life in Their Hands **8.00** Gavin & Stacey – Christmas Special **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **10.00** Him & Her **10.30** American Dad! **11.15** Family Guy  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** A Child's Christmas in Wales **8.00** Love Me Do: The Beatles' 62 **9.00** Why Poverty? Solar Mamas **10.00** Film: The Big Picture (2010) **11.50** Love Me Do: The Beatles' 62  
**ITV2**  
**3.45** Take Me Out – The Gossip **4.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! Top Trials **6.50** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Results **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003)  
**ITV3**  
**2.20** A Touch of Frost **4.35** Wycliffe **5.45** The Return of Sherlock Holmes **8.00** Wycliffe **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** Ghostboat  
**ITV4**  
**12.30** Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **5.15** 20 Football Transfers That Shocked the World **6.10** Cheers **6.45** Live Darts. The PDC Players Championship Finals. **11.30** Film: The Thing (1982) Sci-fi horror remake, starring Kurt Russell.  
**E4**  
**3.35** New Girl **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Scrooged (1988) **10.00** Misfits **11.00** 2 Broke Girls **11.30** The Big Bang Theory  
**Film4**  
**3.05** The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) **4.45** Rooster Cogburn (1975) **6.55** The Phantom (1996) **8.50** Seven Psychopaths **9.00** The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) **11.10** Pushing Tin (1999)



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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### Monday

##### Duplex, BBC1, 11.20pm

A couple are overjoyed to find the home of their dreams, and do not let the matter of a little old lady living upstairs put them off. However, once they move in, she turns out to be a less than ideal neighbour, tempting them to consider resorting to murder to get rid of her. Comedy, directed by Danny DeVito and starring Drew Barrymore, Ben Stiller, Eileen Essell, Harvey Fierstein, Justin Theroux, James Remar, Robert Wisdom and Swosie Kurtz. (2003)

#### Tuesday

##### The Enemy Below, Channel 4, 12.45pm

The captain of an American destroyer in the South Atlantic is still recovering from the sinking of his previous vessel. He tries to outwit a cunning German U-boat commander, but comes to respect the courage of his enemy. However, his crew fears he is not up to the challenge of defeating his opponent. Second World War thriller, starring Robert Mitchum, Curt Jurgens, Theodore Bikel, David Hedison, Kurt Kreuger, Frank Albertson, David Bair and Jeff Daley. (1957)

#### Wednesday

##### Untraceable, Channel 5, 10pm

An FBI agent investigates a seemingly untraceable website whose owner films himself committing murder and releases the footage online - and the more people watch, the more violent he becomes. As the agent searches for a connection between the victims, word gets out about the site, leading to a rise in its popularity and the number of increasingly horrific killings. Horror, with Diane Lane, Billy Burke, Colin Hanks, Joseph Cross, Mary Beth Hurt and Peter Lewis. (2008)



Under Siege, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

#### Thursday

##### Under Siege, Channel 5, 10pm

Terrorists infiltrate a US battleship in a carefully orchestrated move to steal its arsenal of nuclear weapons, unaware the ship's resourceful cook - a veteran US Navy Seal - and a scantily clad stripper are about to foil their plans. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal, Tommy Lee Jones, Erika Eleniak, Gary Busey, Patrick O'Neal, Damian Chapa, Troy Evans, David McKnight and Colm Meaney. (1992)

#### Friday

##### Basic Instinct, ITV1, 11.10pm

A hard-drinking San Francisco cop investigates the case of a man murdered with an ice-pick, but his normally well-honed intuition starts letting him down as he falls for the sultry and manipulative chief suspect, the victim's former girlfriend. Thriller from director Paul Verhoeven, starring Sharon Stone, Michael Douglas, George Dzundza and Jeanne Tripplehorn. (1992)

### Pick of the Week

## Variety is still proving to be the spice of life

The mother of all entertainment shows is here once again, and as usual it features many different performers, each doing their thing in front of a packed audience.

If variety is the spice of your life, then this most spectacular of extravaganzas is likely to pep up Monday night's viewing no end with two-and-a-half hours of the stuff of which showbiz legends are made.

Host David Walliams welcomes our own celebrity staples Alan Carr, Amanda Holden, Bradley Walsh, Des O'Connor, Ronnie Corbett and Bruce Forsyth, along with global superstars Alicia Keys, Andrea Bocelli, Kylie Minogue, Neil Diamond, One Direction (calm yourselves girls), Plácido Domingo and Rod Stewart.

And if that's not enough to get you tuning in, how about Girls Aloud, Bill Bailey, Katherine Jenkins, Robbie Williams and the cast of West End hits Matilda and The Bodyguard?

However, the act everyone wants to see is Ashleigh and Pudsey who, of course, won their spot on the

show by winning this year's Britain's Got Talent.

If you are a fan of BGT, look out for the return of previous finalists Diversity, Spelbound, Stavros Flatley and Paul Potts.

Walliams is rather thrilled to be hosting this year's event. "It is a show that I have watched every year from a very young age, and never dreamed I would be one day be a part of it," he enthuses.

Those lucky enough to have been backstage at one of these bashes will know how much time and effort goes into its preparation.

In 1996, one fresh-faced journalist spent seven hours waiting backstage during the dress rehearsal for the celebrities to turn up for a chat.

You were allowed to go to the loo of course, but hanging around at the back of the Dominion Theatre and watching host Bob Monkhouse was a no-no. However, by the time the likes of Tom Jones, the much-missed Jill Dando and Robson and Jerome turned up, all those hours of waiting paid off.

Now, 16 years on, the show is celebrating its 100th birthday, so the tension backstage will be greater than ever as the talent and the tech team give 110 per cent to ensure the night goes off without a hitch.

Most of the acts on this year's show will have rehearsed their act to death to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Just a pity Dallas veteran Larry Hagman didn't try a little harder during a song at his Royal Variety in 1980. Having forgotten the words, he hummed along and then stopped the orchestra. "Well, I blew it," he grinned. "Well, there you go."

It scarcely mattered. Even the Queen was curious to find out who shot his beloved alter ego JR.

Last year Barry Manilow had problems with a backing track, but by the time the final show was screened for TV viewers, any problems had been edited out.

With a little luck, any wrinkles in this year's bash will be ironed out at the dress rehearsal. Let's hope everything is all right on the night.



David Walliams hosts The Royal Variety Performance, Monday, ITV1, 7.30pm

### Best of the Rest

#### Monday

##### Inside Clairidge's BBC2, 9pm

It's been the subject of many a film, is a home-from-home for the royals, and the celebs simply aren't A-list enough if they're not frequenting the luxurious high-ceilinged venue, but Clairidge's is finally opening its door to mere mortals - well, in the form of a fly-on-the-wall documentary at least. This is the first time anything like this has been done in the hotel's 200-year history, but it is a rather fitting way to mark the milestone birthday. Clairidge's regal associations were confirmed as far back as 1860, and since then, it has become known as an 'extension to Buckingham Palace' but what of the elite who regularly stay at the hotel? Director Jane Treays lets us in on their secrets...

#### Tuesday

##### Murder Files: The Haircut Killer Channel 5, 8pm

Channel 5 has broadcast more than its fair share of crime documentaries over the years, but few have been as upsetting as this one. It focuses on the story of Danilo Restivo, dubbed 'The Haircut Killer', because of his fetish for cutting women's hair - as well as their throats. In June 2011, he was convicted of the murder of Heather Barnett, who lived in Bournemouth with her two children - sadly it was Heather's offspring who discovered their mother's body when they returned home from school. Daughter Caitlin describes the horror she and her brother were confronted with, while Heather's sister Denise also discusses the incriminating evidence found at the scene.

#### Last Tango in Halifax BBC1, 9pm

Although Celia and Alan are clearly crazy about each other and desperate to tie the knot so they can spend the rest of their lives together, even they have arguments from time to time. It seems a major confrontation could be brewing when they not only fall out about their differing political views, they also disagree about where their marriage should take place. Meanwhile, Gillian makes a nuisance of herself by telling John he needs to stick up for himself more - but when he appears on Caroline's doorstep announcing he's moving back in, she isn't best pleased.

#### Wednesday

##### The Town ITV1, 9pm

Andrew Scott is probably best known for being Moriarty to Benedict Cumberbatch's Sherlock, but can he outwit Miss Marple? Maybe we'll find out in this promising three-part drama, which sees Scott starring alongside Julia McKenzie and Martin Clunes. It follows Mark (Scott), an architect who returns to his hometown in the wake of a family tragedy, only to find that a lot has changed while he's been gone. If it makes him feel any better, he's not the only one who's struggling. Hard-drinking local mayor Len (Clunes) is lurking from one PR disaster to another - and what exactly is linking enigmatic copper Inspector Franks (Douglas Hodge) to Mark's family?

#### Thursday Jamie & Jimmy's Food Fight Club Channel 4, 9pm

Let's face it, we Brits don't have the best reputation when it comes to culinary expertise. But old pals Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty are determined to change all that via this new series. Each week, they will focus on a different type of food, then travel the UK in search of the best examples. But it's after that that the fun really begins. Jamie and Jimmy will then set off for the European mainland to do battle with their counterparts in France, Germany or Italy to discover whether British nosh can hold its own abroad - or whether we really do lag behind in the flavour stakes. Expect to see some A-list celebrities and audience participation along the way too.

#### Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 9pm

Originally set to be broadcast on October 24, but pushed back because of the start of Michael Palin's Brazil series, here's a chance at last to see John Bishop delving into his family's past. Although his accent gives away the fact he was born and bred on Merseyside, his family ties lie elsewhere in a variety of rather colourful characters. Among them are an army band member, a

lay vicar and a Crimean War fighter. Bishop also travels to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to find out what may have happened to one of his relatives who served in the Navy during the Victorian era.

#### Friday

##### Peter Kay - In Conversation Channel 4, 9pm

There was a time when the words 'garlic bread' and 'cheesecake' would not bring a smile to the face, but Peter Kay changed all that. Within a few years, the roly-poly funnyman went from being a warm-up act for Michael Parkinson's chat show to being a main attraction in front of the camera. In this new one-off show, Kay chats to Danny Baker about his phenomenally successful career. His last UK tour entered the Guinness Book of Records as the biggest stand-up comedy tour in the world, but what is it that makes him tick? Here he reveals for the first time the creative process behind his work, giving a rare insight into his TV series and live comedy.

#### The Graham Norton Show BBC1, 10.35pm

Jessica Ennis may have the sort of abs and figure usually reserved for comic books, but her achievement at London 2012 was no fantasy. So expect the audience to go wild this week as the pride of Sheffield, and indeed the whole of the UK, drops into the studio for a chat. Daniel Radcliffe might look bashful in her presence, but he hasn't had a bad year either. Okay, the Harry Potter saga may now be consigned to history, but he proved he still had plenty of commercial clout when The Woman in Black grossed \$127million worldwide.

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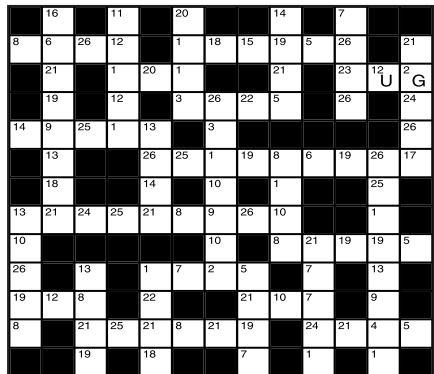
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.197

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	W	P	X	J	C	S	L	K	Q	F	G	D
T	E	H	U	Z	R	N	O	B	V	I	A	Y

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 6. Swift seller (3,4)
- 7. He refuses to settle (5)
- 9. The time in which the race was run (3)
- 10. Capital charge not dealt with in lower courts? (5,4)
- 12. Wrong way to make wealth (5,3,3)
- 15. Raiment last altered for an old language teacher (5,6)
- 17. It is clear in composition, and practical (9)
- 19. Not against the professional (3)
- 21. One is upset by such a din (5)
- 22. Quite different people have it in common (7)

Down

- 1. Get on a governing body (5)
- 2. Express service unit (3)
- 3. Bound to leave something out (4)
- 4. Concerted movement put something on a firm basis (9)
- 5. He may be involved in a row (7)
- 8. New arrivals, we hear, at the docks (6)
- 11. Useless as a costermonger without stock (9)
- 13. Not quite out of St. Malo (6)
- 14. Be fond of and look after (4,3)
- 16. Stadium takes an age to erect (5)
- 18. Might be in or even out (4)
- 20. Reserved for the cast (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

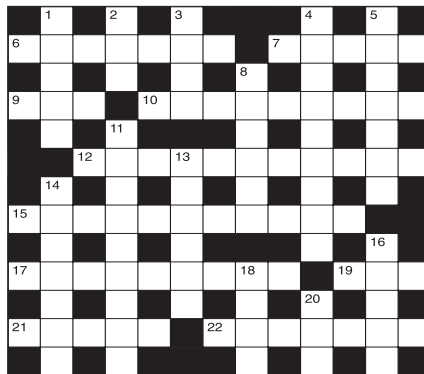
- 6. Expedite (7)
- 7. Exclude (5)
- 9. Ancient (3)
- 10. Make thin (9)
- 12. Submissive (11)
- 15. Counsel (11)
- 17. Fellowship (9)
- 19. Badly (3)
- 21. Oneness (5)
- 22. Exult (7)

Down

- 1. Cunning (5)
- 2. Deed (3)
- 3. Enthusiasm (4)
- 4. Subtraction (9)
- 5. Incomplete (7)
- 6. Forsake (6)
- 11. Ugliness (9)
- 13. Lengthen (6)
- 14. Interpret (7)
- 16. Lax (5)
- 18. Finished (4)
- 20. Pledge (3)



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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Administrator; 8 Housetop; 9 Ally; 10 Patent; 12 Aways; 14 Hereto; 16 Stress; 18 Flag; 20 Back-door; 22 Singing-master. Down: 1 Advocate; 2 Tissue; 3 Hilt; 4 Stop-gaps; 5 Canada; 6 Pool; 11 Trombone; 13 Discover; 15 Engage; 17 Radish; 19 Laid; 21 Comb. QUICK - Across: 7 Expostulation; 8 Shortens; 9 Aver; 10 Annex; 12 Finish; 14 Repeat; 16 Listen; 18 Show; 20 Narcotic; 22 Encyclopaedia. Down: 1 Exchange; 2 Course; 3 Stye; 4 Elusful; 5 Strain; 6 Lone; 11 Entangle; 13 Specific; 15 Always; 17 Stolen; 19 Hang; 21 Ripe.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

5		6			1	
	9		3			5
1		3	5	2		4
7	8		1		5	6
3	7	1		8	5	2
	2		5		7	
6			3			8

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
7 5 9 1 1 4 3 2 6 8  
3 4 8 7 2 6 1 9 5  
1 6 2 8 9 7 4 3 2  
5 1 3 7 2 8 6 5 4  
6 2 7 3 1 4 8 9 2  
2 8 4 2 6 5 3 7 1  
4 1 5 6 3 9 7 8 2  
3 2 6 4 9 1 5 8 7  
8 9 1 6 5 7 4 3 2

Circlegam

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:  
The letter represented by the question mark is C. Cottage, terraced, detached, all types of houses.

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66 Powke Lane, Rowley Regis

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#### HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

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**£650 PCM**



#### STOURBRIDGE, WHEELER STREET

A traditional three bedroom mid terrace property in a popular residential area and comprising of: Front Reception Room with Original Marble Fireplace, Back Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, Two Large Bedrooms and One Large Single, Lovely Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, On Road Parking. Available Immediately.

**£595 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, BARRS ROAD

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**£550 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, HAWNE COURT

A ground floor unfurnished flat briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen with appliances and Breakfast Area, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking and Garage.

**£525 PCM**



#### STOURBRIDGE, SANDON ROAD

An Unfurnished Semi Detached House Situated On A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Comprising Of: Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Nice Size Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom With Shower, Garage And Driveway Parking, Front And Rear Gardens.

**£525 PCM**



#### STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Located close to Stourbridge Town Centre, is this unfurnished mid terrace house, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Cosy Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden With Patio, Shower, Small Rear Garden, Parking Space to Front.

**£525 PCM**



#### STOURBRIDGE, CHAPEL STREET

A Three Bedroom Link Detached House Within Walking Distance To Lye Shops, Buses And Train Station, Comprising Of: Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms And Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden With Patio, Blocked Paved Driveway For Two Cars. Available Immediately.

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#### CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

This lovely part furnished second floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, One with Wardrobes, Lounge with Brown 'L' Shaped Sofa, Fitted Kitchen with Small Fridge, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Garden.

**£495 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, HARDEN COURT

Situated In Popular Residential Area Of Halesowen, With Easy Access To Buses To The Town, Is This Part Furnished First Floor Apartment Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom With A Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage Parking, Communal Gardens.

**£495 PCM**



#### BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

An unfurnished semi detached house, close to Merry Hill shopping centre, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Gardens, Allocated Parking Space.

**£475 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, BEAUMONT ROAD

A lovely unfurnished 2 bed mid terrace home briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Downstairs Family Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms with Free Standing Wardrobes, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, On Road Parking.

**£475 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA ROAD

An Unfurnished semi detached house, close to local amenities, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Kitchen, Living Room, Two Bedroom, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking.

**£475 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.

**£435 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

This lovely unfurnished ground floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprising of: One Bedroom, Spacious Lounge with Patio Doors onto a Private Backyard, Fitted Kitchen with Small Fridge and Washing Machine, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Garden.

**£425 PCM**



#### ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space and Parking Area for Visitors, Communal gardens.

**£425 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

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## Cul-de-sac location for dormer-style property

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Set back behind a front garden with a large block paved driveway with a carport and garage, the house – in Ingatstone Drive – also has a landscaped rear garden with open aspect.

It is well placed for local amenities in Wordsley and Kingswinford, including a good selection of shops, local schooling, regular public transport services and King George Park.

On the ground floor the cloakroom has a white suite of WC and vanity unit with inset wash basin while the lounge – 17ft 1in by 10ft 8in – has an electric fire with feature surround, and the separate dining room is 12ft 10in by 7ft 10in.

The re-fitted kitchen, 9ft 8in by 8ft 9in, has a range of units with roll edge work surfaces, sink drainer with mixer tap, recess for cooker, integrated dishwasher and fridge/freezer and wall mounted cupboards.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom with panelled bath with shower, pedestal wash basin and WC.

Outside is a carport to the garage and door to a utility room with plumbing for automatic washing machine and recess for fridge and freezer, while the rear garden has a paved patio area, lawn, child's climbing frame/play area and timber shed.

Call Taylors on 01384 395555 for details.



The property in Ingatstone Drive, has a carport leading to its garage



The lounge – 17ft 1in by 10ft 8in – has an electric fire with surround

## Improved and extended home



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It has a front garden with driveway and attached single garage, with a good sized rear garden backing onto greenbelt land.

On the ground floor the dining room, 14ft 9in by 10ft 6in, has an Adam style fireplace with living flame coal effect gas fire and double doors to the extended lounge measuring 16ft 7in by 10ft 10in with feature brick fireplace with tiled hearth, wooden mantle and open fire with gas point.

The extended kitchen, 13ft 4in by 10ft 1in, has an inset one and a half bowl stainless steel sink with mixer tap, range of base cupboards, work surfaces and wall cupboards, and there is also a WC.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath, electric shower, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside is a lawned front garden with shrub borders and asphalt driveway, while the rear garden has a slatted patio, lawn, shrub borders, ornamental pool and two storerooms.

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

## New Skoda Rapid is practical and a great performer

Look hard at the front of the new Skoda Rapid and what does it remind you of?

Is it a simply styled, modern looking car or a lucky four-leafed clover, thanks to the way the head and fog lights are positioned? If you're a car buyer, it may be the first description; if a designer of the newcomer from the Czech Republic, it will be the second.

You may conclude from this divide that car designers live on another planet (the rear lights are inspired by the Czech glass industry, apparently), but you can't doubt the passion that went into shaping this mid-price family car.

The Rapid is designed (very thoroughly) to sit above the smaller Fabia and below the larger Octavia, a car that's going to grow in size and stature when the next one arrives some time in 2013.

It majors on practicality, with enough room in the rear for adults to feel comfortable and a simply huge boot hidden nicely in a shape that looks somewhere between practical hatch and posher saloon at the back.

**By Ian Donaldson**

Underneath are familiar bits of suspension from other cars in the VW Group and under the bonnet you'll discover a choice of diesel and petrol engines also shared with cars bearing VW, Seat and Audi badges.

The result of this hidden commonality is twofold; it means the use of mechanical bits built in huge numbers and therefore honed for business and, thanks to economies of scale, relatively inexpensive to make.

That means, in Skoda's case perhaps especially, that you get a lot of car for your money. The new Rapid starts at £12,900 but you fancy most buyers will find the near £1,000 needed to climb to SE grade, bringing with it alloy wheels, air conditioning and trip computer missing from the bargain basement S version.

That means the £14,650, 1.2 litre petrol engine car tested here, third from bottom in a price range that levels off with the £17,850 of the 1.6 diesel Elegance model, does not feel remotely like a car bought on price alone.

One Skoda person at the launch of the car (definitely not a designer) said customers 'have had enough of this shiny, bling, bling stuff.' The Rapid is low on bling but high on a feeling, shared across the VW Group cars, that solid quality matters most for long-term satisfaction.

If the outside of the Rapid is crisp and modern in a low-key way, the interior is simple, with obvious attention to detail, easily read instruments but not a bit of bling to be seen. You may well think that's a good thing.

Easy  
A much dearer diesel model tried before the petrol powered car tested here certainly made for an easy drive, with fewer gear changes and a creditable 64mpg on the trip computer at journey's end.

The smaller petrol engine tested here needed more revs and returned 47mpg (and promised 114mph and 0-62mph in 11.2 seconds) but still felt a much bigger unit than the spec sheet indicated. Sweet and willing around town, it pulled this largish car along the motorway without breaking sweat.

The diesel rode the side road ripples



The new Skoda Rapid. Prices range from £12,900 to £17,850

better than the lighter petrol model, but not enough to matter, while the petrol engine version tackled corners with a bit more enthusiasm.

Standard spec on the SE here includes the air con and alloys already mentioned,

along with heated door mirrors, electric front windows and height-adjustable driver's seat.

And every Rapid shows one design touch: a plastic ice scraper hidden in the fuel filler flap. Practical as well as clever.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 57.7 (4.9), Combined 50.4 (5.6). CO2 emissions: 129g/km.

**Model shown:** Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si in White Orchid Pearl at £15,000 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Jazz Si registrations from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £159 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.4 Si Manual in metallic paint with 3 years' 0% APR with 2% deposit. Annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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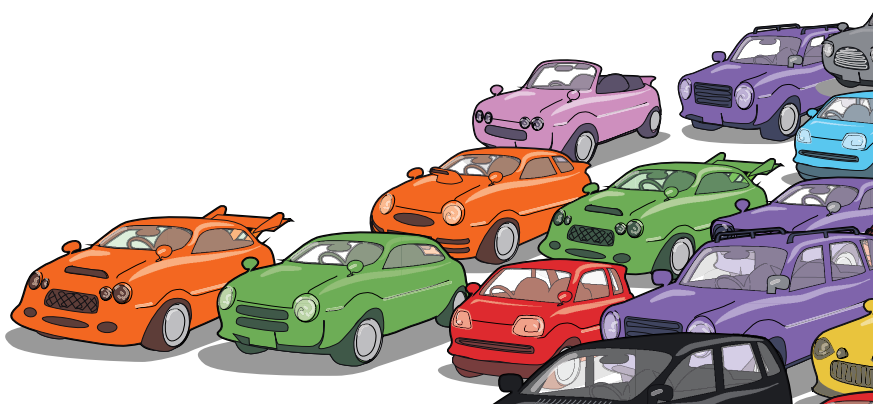
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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 – 55.4 (8.7 – 5.1), Extra Urban 54.3 – 76.3 (5.2 – 3.7), Combined 44.1 – 67.3 (6.4 – 4.2). CO2 emissions: 150 – 110g/km.

Model shown: Civic 1.4i-VTEC SE Manual in new metallic. Mileage shown is 116,955 On the Road. Terms and Conditions: New retail site registrations (including Civic 1.4i) from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 600 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 3BQ. Servicing: Three years' complimentary servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first and includes a maximum of three services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only.

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Please call 07879 522334.

LOST, November 21, WV4 area, young fox looking black & white cat, black spot on chin, nervous. 01902 335406.

LOST—Male black and white tabby cat, in Sedgley area, November 19. 01902 387952.

### personal

### LOOK

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Young 40's, seeks genuine single male for possible relationship.

Photo please (returned).

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Caring, loyal and spontaneous, own house and car. WILTM attractive female, 45-55 to fly off to warmer climates over Christmas or New Year and hopefully more.

New year, new start for us.

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Wolverhampton area

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Didn't like the Calamari at the Wing Wah on Saturday, November 24. Maybe you could cook it for me.

Do you remember?

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Mr Harjit Singh of 143a Pond Lane, Wolverhampton, WV2 1JH, he is required to contact Chamba & Co Solicitors (no longer trading) formerly of 176 Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, WV2 3DR on 07844 084773.

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0121 5523853.

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07914 215126.

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### The Inscription reads: Marriage, February 10, 1840. Any Information. 01562 820481. Kidderminster.

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Please apply in writing by email with a full CV, to:-  
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**HARD WORKING**  
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If you cannot adopt a dog would you like to sponsor them for a small amount

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**MOLLY** The Collie, 4yr old, black/white, sweet/loving.

**NELLY** Short haired black/white Collie, medium size, sweetie, ideal pet.

**WHISPER** 15wk old blue merle puppy, gorgeous girl.

**ELLIE** Mature Jack Russell girl, small brown, lovable.

**OLLIE** 6 year old long haired Collie boy, handsome/intelligent.

**JACK** Small brown 2yr old small brown terrier cross, good with dogs/children.

**01588 671616 or 01384 252158.**

**MINIATURE SCHNAUZER** Crosses, nice and small £165. 07972 604503.

**SMOOTH FOX** Terrier puppy dog, KC Reg, fully vaccinated, £500. 01902 508788.

**TWO BEARDED DRAGONS**, 18 months, 4ft vivarium in beech cabinet, complete set up, excellent condition, £225. 07854 048720.

**UMBRELLA COCKATOO** Coos, silly talk, talks well, family pet, reluctant sale, £950. 07581 120691.

**WEST HIGHLAND**, white bitch, 4½ years old, genuine reserve, free to a good home. 01902 633540.

**WESTIE PUPPIES** KC Reg. dogs left to be used to children, ready now. 01787 201177.

**ADORABLE** shih Tzu Puppies, lovingly reared by a recognised KC member, excellent pedigree, Vet checked, vaccinated and wormed, both parents can be seen, £495. Please ring to reserve early. 01746 781190.

**BABY PEACH** faced lovebirds, blue, yellow, cream, partly hand reared, can be handled. From £10 each. 07814 606277.

## public & legal notices

**ERIC WESTWOOD (Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 7 The Close Halesowen West Midlands B63 2SJ, who died on 17/06/2012, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 01/02/2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

**GEORGE GREEN LLP**  
195 High Street Cradley Heath  
West Midlands B64 5HW 7364637

## motoring

### accessories & services

### mobile mechanics

**MOBILE MECHANICS** Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 949469.

### cars over £1500

**BMW 328IE**, saloon, 98, silver, red leather, all electric, MoT, tax, CD, alloys, clean car, £1,185 ono. 07438 50901/01902 62112.

**FIAT DOBLO MULTIJET** Diesel, 5 door Estate, blue, 2008(06), low mileage (29k), fully accessible wheelchair vehicle, very good condition, tax MoT. £3,995.

**FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC**, 2009, 5 door, metallic blue, 30,000 miles, 6 months tax, immaculate condition, £5,500. 07926 691849.

**KIA RIO SILVER**, 2003, 24,500 miles, petrol, manual, MoT May, tax end Nov £1,800 ono. 01922 446809.

**KIA SEDONA DIESEL** 7 seats, silver, auto, only 61,000 miles, MoT, 2011, alloys, CD / radio, new battery, new disc pads all round, exchange for scooter/ trike or motorbike, with / without sidecar, cash either way.

**LEXUS IS200** 2004, 43,500 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fish, alloy, MoT June 2013, central locking, pas, sunroof, CD, leather interior, petrol, cambelt change done. 1st to see will buy £4,000 ono. 07952 558261.

**MERCEDES A CLASS 210 EVOLUTION** 52 reg, manual, black, 68k, tax, MoT, leather seats, alloys, new tyres, 35mpg. Nice clean condition. £2,150 ono. 07772 007913.

**MERCEDES BENZ E270 CDI AVANTGARDE** 2005, excellent condition, 80,000 miles, full service, history, metallic blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, auto, central locking, cruise control, pas, diesel, tax, alloys, stereo, CD, spots, leather interior, heated electric seats. £6,750 o.n.o. 07879 410209.

**MERCEDES C CLASS**, full Evo pack, 1 owner, fish, 16,000 miles, panoramic roof, £2,250 ono. Telephone 07867 977959.

**MITSUBISHI COLT C22**, 59 plate, 11 months MoT, 5 months Tax, 20k miles, excellent condition, £4,800. 01902 700614.

**NISSAN ALMERA** 1.5 SE, 5-dr hatchback, 53 reg, blue, 29k miles warranted with FSH, E.W, AC, Air bags, stereo, reliable genuine car, £1,975 ono. 01562 883891.

**NISSAN FIGARO** Convertible, 1991, Classic car Green, MoT and tax 10 months, £6,250. 01299 266864.

**NISSAN NOTE 1.6 TEKNA** 57 plate, 40,000 miles, silver, fish, long MoT, tax, alloys, CD changer, petrol, part leather, Bluetooth, privacy glass and much more. £4,500 ono. 07971 694607.

**PEUGEOT 407SE HDI AUTO** 1st reg Jan 07, silver, tax, MoT, full spec, 32,480 miles guaranteed, any trial. £4,250. 01902 630037 before 7pm.

**RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE 1.9DCi** 3dr, hatch, 2007, 46,500 miles, black, fish, long MoT, cambelt, leather interior, 2 owners, good condition. £3,995. 01952 510735.

**SAAB 95** auto Linear Sport, 2005, 60,000 miles, grey, alarm, cruise control, alloys, 12 months MoT, £1,725 ono. 07786 915978.

**SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SDI**, 3dr, petrol, 2005, 40,500 miles, met grey abs, air con, excellent condition, tax and MoT (Telford), £2,700 ono. 07781 013691.

**SKODA OCTAVIA VRS 1.8 turbo**, 2001, yellow, excellent condition, 96K, tax, MoT, headlight upgrade, £2,200. 07781 013691.

**SUBARU IMPREZA 2000RX**, petrol, 57 plate, 20k, auto, awd, silver, Sat Nav, etc, immaculate, £7,250. 07923 11473.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1200CC** Reg July 02, 49,600 miles, 3dr, petrol, dark silver, fish, MoT, Aug, tax to March 2013, radio/CD, vgc. £1,625. 01384 441044.

**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA** 58 plate, Diesel 1.9 litre, black, very good condition. Reliable. Only 37,000 miles. Taxed, MoT till Feb 7-seats. Sale due to ill health.

**VW GOLF 1.6 SDI**, Match, 5dr, 52 plate, 2 owners, 42,000 miles, pet, good condition, £2,990 ono. 07734 15014.

**VW GOLF 1.6 SE**, 2001, fish, tax/MoT, low mileage, one former keeper, excellent, £2,100 ono. Call 07961 761802.

**VW TOURAN 2.0TDI**, (140ps), 2009, 59,000 miles, biscay blue, fish, alloys, 7 seater, tax and MoT, Immaculate. £3,995 ono. 07795 493527.

## cars under £1500

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED** that the Business Advertisements (Dissemination) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**BMA** Cars from £700 - £1500 Full UK Warrant of Fitness Major Credit cards COME AND HAVE A LOOK!! **www.bmamotors.co.uk** 01902 490555

**Dale St Bilson WV14 7JY**

**BMW 328IE**, saloon, 1996, silver, red leather, all electric, MoT, tax, CD, alloys, clean car, £1,185 ono. 07438 50901.

**BMW 520 SE** auto, 1998, Saloon, leather, 6-CD, AC, cruise control 10 mths MoT, FSH. Good condition, 199k, 2995, ono. 07910 142694.

**BMW 320 SE** auto, 1998, Saloon, leather, 6-CD, AC, cruise control 10 mths MoT, FSH. Good condition, 199k, 2995, ono. 07910 142694.

**BMW 328IE**, 1999, 144k miles, fish, tax and MoT, fully loaded, full leather trim, bargain £350 ono. 07792 942206.

**CITROEN SAXO 1.1**, (02) 87k, petrol, black good condition, tax Feb 13 MoT May 15, good runner, £700 ono. 07551 828485.

**CITROEN SAXO 1.1** 2002, two lady owners, wicked run, £68k, cambelt/bois at 64k, lovely condition, 5995 ono. 01545 426200.

**CITROEN SAXO 1.1** 3dr, v reg, 2001, tax, long MoT, economical, good run around, £600 ono. 07990 659991.

**CITROEN SAXO 1.1**, v reg, low miles, MoT/tax, £600 ono. 07762 590333.

**CITROEN XANTIA** Estate, 1.8 petrol, 1997, 10 months MoT and tax, service history, 68,000 miles, 3375 07954 724021.

**DAEWOO LANOS**, 1999, 54k miles, green, abs, air con, fish, MoT, tax, £239 ono. 07513 334513.

**FORD FIESTA 1.25**, 2001, air bag, CD, Cl, 9 months MoT, new sun belt, excellent condition, £695. 07935 57968.

**FORD KA 2** 2000 Collection, 12 months MoT, clean car £750 ono. 07778 294979.

**FORD MONDEO AUTO**, 2002, fixed, January MoT, August service history, 131,000 miles, good runner, £950. 07534 680602.

**HONDA PRELUDE 2.2 VTEC** R Reg, black, MoT, tax April, FSH. £999. 07775 914172.

**HONDA PRELUDE** 2.2 VTEC R Reg, black, MoT, tax April, FSH. £999. 07775 914172.

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**HONDA PRELUDE** 2.2 VTEC R Reg, black, MoT, tax April, FSH. £999. 07775 914172.

## motorbikes

**HONDA PRELUDE** 2.2 Vtec, 1979hpb, 4ws, 1996, silver, 100k, electric sunroof / window, alloys, cruise control, fish. MoT / tax February 2013, £895. 01902 664559.

**LANDROVER DISCOVERY** 300 diesel, 1996, full MoT, tax April, good condition for year, £1,395. 07984 297114.

**MERCEDES E 250** 1996, 117,000 miles, silver, electric windows, electric mirrors, long MoT, auto, cruise control, pas, tax, diesel. £850 ono. 01691 648143.

**MG ZT 2.5**, 2002, 78k miles, silver, long MoT, excellent throughout, 2995, 07922 691015.

**PEUGEOT HDI** Estate, 2002, tax, MoT, £750 ono. 07922 691015.

**RENAULT CLIO**, 2003, black, electric windows, sunroof, alloys, CD, spots, MoT and tax, £795. 01902 630037 before 7pm.

**RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION**, v reg, silver, good condition, 02 alloy wheels, 12 months MoT, £1,000 ono. Contact 07834 198 582.

**RENAULT KANGOO**, 2000(v), silver, MoT June 2013, diesel, £1,100 ono. 01902 679038.

**RENAULT KANGOO** Alize Estate, 1.4 v reg, FSH, good condition, July 2013, rear sliding doors, £895, 07967 852696.

**RENAULT MEGANE Dynamique**, 1.6, 53 reg, 41,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, £1,500 ono. 07798 726011. Wolverhampton.

**ROYAL 25 1.4**, 5dr, 04, Green, 4reg, FSH, MoT, one owner, S/R, Alloys, Stereo, good condition, £1,200 ono. 01902 670539.

**SAAB 93** CABRIOLET, S Reg, very good condition, tax/MoT, £5500. 01902 75274 after 9pm.

**VAUXHALL CORSA BREEZE 1.0** 12v S Reg, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, £495. 07962 226638.

**VAUXHALL CORSA**, SXI, 1.2, 12v, 10 months MoT, 4 month Tax, £700 spent, new car arriving. £595 ono. 07961 448094.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA** 03 reg, 90k, very good condition, fish, tax and MoT April, £1,450. 01384 830793.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.6GLS**, R reg, 90,000 miles, 4 weeks tax, 12 months MoT, £495. 07966 085595.





**ATTRACTIVE** blonde 33yr old female,  
seeking her Prince Charming.

# Making Friends

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and others go to: [http://  
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Karen & Donald

Are this weeks featured web ads



**EASYGOING** male, 6ft, likes aromatherapy,  
singing, nights in/out, seeks similar female.

## SINGLE LADIES

**Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. Or call 0906 635 0510.**

(T&C's below)

**PETITE** 50yr old likes reading, gardening, outdoors, walking, cycling, seeks companion, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393160

**KATHERINE** 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123

**Hi I'm** Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489

**TINA** young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563

**BEV** 30yr old curly attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535

**TRACY** 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

**CLARE** 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile. OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

**PAULA** 37, WLTm male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503

**MICHELLE** 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396349

**CARLA** 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

**Hi I'm** Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665

**SUE** confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485

**MARIA** French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451

**GRACE** Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

**LUCY** beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389

**CAROLINE** attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

**NATASHA** single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

**WIDOW** 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

**TRISH** tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves life, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship. 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579

**CARING** lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

**BIG** bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

**SUSIE** gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTm someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117

**LOUISE** youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491

**HOME** alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277

**JOY** 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTm male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629

**BLONDE** attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

**CATHY** is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTm a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657

**61YR** old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

**JANICE** 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

**LOUISE** 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165

**MANDY** 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

**ALICIA** 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

**I'M** Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051

**EASYGOING** down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893

**LADY** young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117

**PAULINE** attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

**SARAH** 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

**KAREN** witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125

**FUN** loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

**CHRIS** attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401

**LOUISE** 35, loves meals out, wltm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395727

**MICHELLE** attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717

**CAROLINE** 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675

**FEMALE** kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350397

**LADY** widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247

**SALLY** slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469

**MADDIE** extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394565

**PAULINE** divorced female on the wrong side of 40 looking for adult fun with easygoing highly driven man if you get my drift? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394463

**SLIM** male, seeks lady 35-45, size 12-18, GSOH for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394591

**ANNA** 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy Auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375139

**FARMER'S** granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204

**BUBBLY** female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

**VICKY** honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

**DENISE** tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873

**JENNY** blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481

**MAUREEN** seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543

**SHAPELY** attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 321152

**SLIM** attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 351813

**GENUINE** female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386927

**42YR** old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358399

**JESSIE** single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382087

**SUE** 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

**FRIENDLY** black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349865

**HELEN** 34yr old single mum slim intelligent, seeks nice male for adult companionship with good potential for a great relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394121

**PATRICIA** 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

**ATTRACTIVE** Tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349211

**MICHELLE** black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 317945

**SLIM** professional, attractive, amiable lady, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH, who enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386615

**JANE** 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380591

**CURVY** red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

**LADY** 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTm gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 340021

**ATTRACTIVE** glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/dating and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393799

**SARAH** 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378483

**LYNN** 37, single mum, petite slim and very pretty, seeking caring funny guy to be with and become my Mr Wonderful. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386633

**MORAG** 21yr old attractive dark haired student nurse, new to area and very lonely seeks mature male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391087

**LOVING** caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

**JAN** lonely divorced female with older children looking for male for mature/adult companionship without ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 346663

**SARAH** nice looking blue eyed slim brunette, WLTm similar lonely male for fun times hopefully leading to ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394575

REGISTER USING YOUR MOBILE  
**0333 313 7360**  
REPLY TO MEMBERS  
**0906 500 3955**  
(09065 cost £1.53p/m)  
COLLECT MESSAGES  
**0906 500 3957**  
(09065 cost £1.53p/m)

## SINGLE MEN

**Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. Or call 0906 635 0510.**

(T&C's below)

**MALE** 70's, honest, caring, attractive, likes socialising, seeks smart, attractive, caring lady for meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397975

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**57YR** old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463

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**JAMES** 56, 5ft 9ins, professional, OHAC, independent, no ties, seeking loving relationship with likeminded woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473

**JOE** 45, GSOH, attractive, medical professional, seeks female for daytime fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671

**GOOD** looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340

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**GENT** mid 70's, seeks genuine lady, 65 plus for outings, holidays etc. leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398575

**59YR** old male, 5ft 8ins, seeks younger lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392908

**IAN** 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874

**TALL** dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380

**PAUL** 47, short brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6ft, slim, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393456

**TALL** male, 64, vitality and brain, seeks lady for discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398235

**MALE** fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393346

**55YR** old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049

**GENT** 54, slightly mad but not bad will make you glad you answered this ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398231

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**GAY** male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 39573



## Seconds have bout of travel sickness

**Stratford 4 Old Halesonians 1**  
OLD HALESONIANS men's hockey seconds are still suffering from travel sickness and have yet to pick up a point on the road this season.

Despite the rain and the slippery pitch, Hales felt confident of building on the previous weekend's victory over Telford and had good possession in the opening stages.

However, Stratford took the lead from a well-worked attacking move and scored a second in quick succession after a stray defensive pass found a Stratford forward at the top of the D.

Hales did not give up and were rewarded when Harry Hughes converted a penalty stroke after a foot inside the D was adjudged to have stopped the ball going into the Stratford net.

However, Hales were dealt a further blow before the break as Stratford scored from a short corner for 3-1.

Hales remained patient and played some excellent hockey in the second period, but weak finishing and fine saves prevented them adding to their score.

With Hales continually pushing forward, holes appeared at the back and Stratford scored with a final counter.

The side face promotion chasing Warwick at home this weekend.

**Bridgnorth 1 Old Halesonians 0**  
Missing captain Deck Glaze, the thirds struggled against an older and more experienced side.

Bridgnorth, who are unbeaten and battling for promotion, were able to control the game and overcome a young Hales side who have just one game left before the Christmas break.

**Other results:** Harborne 2 Old Hales Ladies firsts 3, Stourport 3 Old Hales Ladies seconds 1, Old Hales fourths 6 Stratford 0, Old Hales fifths 1 Worcester 4, Kingswinford 4 Old Hales Badgers 6.

## Pack point the way to a win

**Wednesbury 34 Burntwood 6**  
PACK domination saw Wednesbury overturn recent history against old rugby rivals Burntwood.

Past encounters have been tough affairs, with Burntwood taking the spoils more often than not.

This game, played in appalling conditions, looked like going the same way as a penalty put the visitors ahead after five minutes. But Wednesbury took over.



Romelu Lukaku wheels away after his penalty put Albion 3-1 up at Sunderland



Joy for Albion as Lukaku's penalty finds Simon Mignolet's net at the Stadium of Light

# Baggies are boinging over national acclaim

## Sunderland 2 Albion 4

**SO, Albion have finally grabbed some national attention.**

Their ability to deal with increasing fame could now shape the rest of this remarkable season, *writes Steve Madeley.*

The vibes are encouraging. It is difficult to imagine that a more humble, grounded squad has ever occupied a top-three spot so far into a Premier League season.

Yet still Steve Clarke will know many of his players moved deeper into uncharted territory with victory at Sunderland.

How they handle the glare of the spotlight and the mounting expectation of their supporters will determine to a huge degree whether they can turn their stunning four months into a truly memorable season.

The latest Baggies performance brought another fine away win, a couple more notable records, a thoroughly-deserved third place and some long-overdue acclaim.

### Challenge

Suddenly Clarke's side are being noticed by a nation that largely overlooked the club's steady ascent of the rankings and their construction of a squad of genuine top-flight quality in recent times.

And that belated acclaim will alter the rules for players and coaches who finally, after a fabulous 4-2 win on Wearside took them to 26 points, were forced to acknowledge that a challenge for Europe is now more than simply a flight of fancy.

Clarke spoke for the first time of "re-assessing" Albion's targets if their stellar form continues while Shane Long, the most humble of goalscoring heroes, admitted that "everybody dreams" when pushed on the issue of European football.

As battle cries go they were hardly attention-grabbing, yet they were the first signs that the hopes which are building among supporters have begun to permeate the walls of The Hawthorns dressing room.

It is no wonder, given days like Saturday,



They think it's all over. It is now – Marc-Antoine Fortune makes it 4-2



Fortune enjoys the moment after scoring for Albion

when 685 Baggies fans left home for a lunchtime fixture in the north-east and were richly rewarded with a wonderful match – and an even better outcome.

Against the Black Cats, Clarke's men had the patience, creativity and goalscoring potency to claim a triumph that their intelligent, controlled performance merited.

The win owed something to luck, with a howler from home keeper Simon Mignolet and a successful but disappointing piece of 'simulation' from Albion's Liam Ridgwell bringing them crucial goals at important moments.

Yet only the most one-eyed home supporter could dispute Clarke's verdict that anything short of victory would have been a travesty. It was hard, too, to argue with his view that his side had, at times, been a "joy to watch". There were spells when they moved the ball with a crispness the Black

Cats could only dream of. Albion were rewarded after 30 minutes as Zoltan Gera produced a moment of brilliance, bending a powerful left-footed screamer into the top corner after Peter Odemwingie had created the opportunity.

They had a two-goal margin just before half-time when Mignolet spilled Chris Brunt's over-hit flick at the feet of Long, handing the Irishman his seventh and simplest goal of the season.

Albion continued to play the more cohesive football but were pegged back with 16 minutes to go when Craig Gardner's free-kick struck fellow substitute Marc-Antoine Fortune and looped over a helpless Boaz Myhill.

But seven minutes later Ridgwell burst into the box and tumbled, anticipating contact from Adam Johnson that never came. It was an unseemly act by a steady

performer, but Romelu Lukaku showed no mercy with an emphatic penalty.

By the time Stephane Sessegnon pulled another goal back in a goalmouth scramble there were just three minutes plus stoppage time for the Baggies to negotiate, and they gave their fans more to cheer when Lukaku broke and fed Fortune, who completed the scoring with the final kick of the match.

It gave the Baggies their best 13-game record since 1953/54, when the likes of Ray Barlow and Ronnie Allen took them to second place and FA Cup success.

And it meant four straight wins in the top flight for the first time since 1980, when Derek Statham, Bryan Robson and Cyrille Regis were in their pomp.

Suddenly, a nation wants to know if the class of 2012 can make history of their own. That question will add a delicious ingredient to a tasty few weeks to come.

## Third win running as Yeltz hit three

### Halesowen 3 Northwich Victoria 1

HALESOWEN took a third successive victory in the Evo-Stik League First Division South.

The first chance on Saturday fell to crisis-club Northwich in an 11th-minute goalmouth scramble but Matt Walwyn slid wide in front of goal.

Halesowen soon acclimated to the sudden conditions and forced three corners in the 18th minute with goalkeeper Ryan Robinson beating away Jean-Michel Gueyres' low header.

The Yeltz took a 23rd-minute lead when defender Gavin Winsper glanced home his first Halesowen goal with a near-post header from Nathaniel Caines' corner.

Vics' troubles worsened six minutes before the interval when Michael Connor was shown a straight red card for initially fouling and then squaring-up to Yeltz midfielder Tom Warner.

But the 10-man Vics equalised just two minutes into the second half when the home defence switched off and Walwyn smacked home a loose ball.

Naveed Arshad restored Halesowen's lead after 57 minutes by sliding home superbly beyond Robinson from a tight angle.

In the final minute of normal time Northwich substitute Djeny Bembo-Leta clipped the Halesowen crossbar from 20 yards.

The Yeltz sealed the three points with a third goal in injury-time when Northwich keeper Robinson charged upfield for a corner but Ben Haseley broke away and set up Gueyres to tap into an empty net.

## Club is looking to bag a kitman

HALESOWEN TOWN are looking for a new match-day 'signing' – a kitman or woman.

The person chosen will be responsible for the stock of first team kit.

The position involves looking after and preparing kit and equipment for match-days.

It brings free travel with the club to Yeltz away matches.

The club is inviting applicants to e-mail [info@htfc.com](mailto:info@htfc.com) for more details on the position.

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## Carlton's late goals finish off the Yeltz

**Halesowen Town 1  
Carlton Town 3**  
(aet, 90-min score 0-0)  
HALESOWEN crashed out at the first stage of the Doodson Sport League Cup after Carlton hit three extra-time goals.

In a low key start to the game, Jean-Michel Gueyes played a delicate 25th-minute chip into the path of Craig Milligan in Carlton's penalty area, but his shot was tipped over the bar by goalkeeper Martin Kearney. From Nathaniel Caines' corner the ball was cleared off the Carlton goal-line by Adam Kimberley. Carlton created their first chance at the start of the second half but home goalkeeper Paul Evans parried Ryan Whitehurst's shot. Evans then made another fine save from Whitehurst six minutes later.

The Millers took the lead early in extra-time when former Halesowen player Reuben Wiggins-Thomas touched home after Adam Kimberley's long free-kick was headed on. Home substitute Gavin Winsper put Halesowen level in the 98th minute by heading home a deep cross from Mitchell Botfield. Wiggins-Thomas restored Carlton's lead in the 101st minute with a neat finish. The visitors made it 3-1 after Wes Henry's superb run down the right. His ball across goal was whipped in by substitute Josh Thornton.

## Halas still top of pile

**Trysull Tigers U9 1  
Halas Hawks U9 West 3**  
HALAS took the lead straight from kick-off through Shakiel Powell, with Jack Blakeway adding another in the first half. Trysull pulled a goal back after the break but Blakeway's solo run from inside his own half sealed a well-deserved victory. Players of match were Blakeway and defender Reece Brittain.

**Halas Hawks U10 West 2  
Bilbrook West U10 0**  
Halas maintained their position at the top of the table with a convincing win. Harvey Brookes scored both goals, but man of the match went to Altrin Alshiqi who gave a commanding performance in the middle of the park.

Not only did he break up Bilbrook's play, but he then distributed the ball well.

## Glassboys spot-on to send holders out of cup

TWO saves from Lewis Solly in a penalty shoot-out put a young Albion side out of the Birmingham Senior Cup as Stourbridge went on to the last eight.

The two sides fought out a goalless draw after 120 minutes at the War Memorial Athletic Ground to send the tie to penalties.

After a quiet start to the contest, holders Albion were first to force a save on 25 minutes when a free-kick from Bradley Garmston was safely held by Solly.

Stourbridge responded immediately with a flick from Luke Benbow releasing Sean Evans away down the left and he supplied a teasing low centre that Ben Billingham

**Stourbridge 0 Albion 0**  
(aet, Stourbridge win 6-5 on pens)

could only steer at Albion stopper Shane Lewis. Three minutes later, from a Sean Geddes free-kick, the ball dropped to Drew Canavan who swept a low shot wide of Lewis' right-hand post.

Five minutes before the interval a goal-kick from Solly was headed on by Benbow for Evans to pursue but he dragged his low shot wide. Geddes almost broke the deadlock on 64 minutes as he cut in from the right across the face of the 18-yard line

before drilling a rising shot narrowly wide. The visitors replied with Callum Jones heading wide from a Reece Wedderburn left-wing corner. Geddes later found Benbow who stabbed his shot goalwards only to find Lewis equal to his effort.

Albion sub Jordan Francis drew an unconvincing save from Solly with a long ranger and in stoppage time another player off the bench, Joel Ambalu, blazed over.

A 98th-minute corner from Geddes was met by Paul McCone at the near post and his header flew just past the bar upright. Two minutes later Stourbridge had their best chance with Chris Knight releasing Benbow

who he poked wide. Benbow nearly opened the scoring in the 115th minute following good work by Leon Broadhurst but his volley hit the bar and from Knight's flick, to Evans' angled shot was deflected wide.

Romaine Sawyers had his penalty saved by Solly in the shoot-out and Jamie Oliver had the chance to win the tie for Stourbridge at 4-3. However, Lewis went the right way to make a save.

Sam Smith and Chris Knight both scored for the hosts as the score progressed to 6-5 before Ryan Pace saw his spot-kick saved by the Glassboys keeper to settle the tie in favour of Gary Hackett's men.

## First XI take full control

**Old Halesonians 4 Finchfield 0**  
SECOND-PLACED Hales men's hockey firsts dominated against third-placed Finchfield who started the day just one point behind them in the MRHA West Midlands Premier.

The game went ahead despite poor weather conditions and Hales took control from the outset.

In under 10 minutes, the home side took the lead through top scorer Tom Bulteel. Hales continued to pile on the pressure and any rare counter-attacks from Finchfield were thwarted.

On the stroke of half-time, Old Halesonians doubled their lead when Tom Durnford drag-flicked the ball into the net.

The second half had a similar pattern and Hales made it three with Bulteel's 10th goal of the season, deflected in from close range.

Chris Hill, who had set up Bulteel, turned scorer for Hales' fourth as he flicked the ball over the Finchfield goalkeeper.

Paul Harrold was yellow-carded for the home team, but Hales retained control with just 10 men for the final minutes of the game.

More hockey - Page 35

## Twins peak to defeat Wood

BOXER Jack Wood again fell to a McCormack in the semi-finals of the Clubs for Young People championships in Sunderland.

The Wednesbury ABC ace lost a split points decision to Birtley Boys ABC's Luke McCormack at 57kg in Class B, for fighters born in 1995. Luke's twin, Pat, eliminated Wood from the junior ABA this year.

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# CLARKE'S START HAS MOURINHO PURRING

**ALBION boss Steve Clarke has revealed how the club's flying start the season has impressed Jose Mourinho.**

The Real Madrid boss has contacted his former Chelsea assistant to congratulate him on his first four months in management. Victory at Sunderland took the Baggies to third in the Premier League before last night's game at Swansea, and Clarke said his former boss had been in touch.

"He sent me a little text before the game at the weekend," said Clarke.

"It was a nice text with some nice things in it, but I'll keep it to myself. It's private between myself and Jose."

"It was just encouragement to keep it going and just keep working."

And Clarke insisted Albion will ignore pundits who have questioned their Premier League prospects.

Match of the Day guest Alan Shearer told Albion fans at the weekend to 'enjoy it while it lasts' while Sky commentator Alan Smith criticised the performance of stand-in keeper Boaz Myhill at Sunderland.

### Respect

But Clarke laughed off the comments. "I respect Alan Shearer and I think if you ask around 95 per cent of people in football they would say West Brom wouldn't be in the top three come the end of the season," he said.

"But, let's see. I don't need to use that as a motivation. I have my own targets and I know where I want to be and what I want to achieve."

"I didn't know Boaz was criticised and I'm not sure what they criticised him about. The first goal was a massive deflection off the wall and he was wrong-footed. He made a fantastic reaction save on the second

by Steve Madeley

goal and his defenders let him down because they didn't react to the second ball. But I know Boaz can handle the pressure."

Meanwhile, Albion have pledged their "full support" for Romelu Lukaku after police launched an inquiry into allegations the striker was racially abused by a Sunderland fan.

Northumbria Police are investigating after a photograph appeared to show a fan making a racist gesture as Lukaku celebrated his goal in the Baggies' 4-2 win.

Clarke said: "The authorities are now looking into the incident at Sunderland and Romelu has our full support. I am sure the authorities will conduct a thorough inquiry and take the appropriate action."

A Sunderland spokesman said: "SAFC operates a policy of zero-tolerance towards racism and anti-social behaviour of any kind."

"Naturally we will co-operate with the police in fully investigating any such incidents."

Northumbria Police said inquiries were taking place.

FA spokesman James Webb said: "We are aware of the alleged incident and we will be liaising with the clubs and the relevant authorities."



Romelu Lukaku celebrates scoring Albion's third goal in the win over Sunderland

## Lukaku puts his focus on Baggies

ALBION striker Romelu Lukaku is confident he will remain at The Hawthorns for the rest of the season.

The Belgium international does not expect to be recalled by Chelsea in January despite helping the Baggies climb above his parent club.

The Blues could cut short the 19-year-old's season-long loan in the January transfer window, but Lukaku said: "I don't think about the option. I am very happy to be here for one year."

"Hopefully this season will end very well and we will see what happens in the future."

"After January I am sure I will be at West Brom."

"I am very happy to know that in my head and hopefully I will do well for the rest of the season."

Lukaku does not believe the appointment of Rafa Benitez as interim Chelsea boss will affect the chances of a recall and he insisted he is determined to keep Albion above his 'parent club'.

"I don't think things will change," said Lukaku. "I am happy with the team here. If I focus too much on Chelsea it wouldn't be good for me."

"Now we are above Chelsea and hopefully it will stay like that."

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